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THE

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CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

FEBRUARY, 1889.

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JOURNAL WORKS TYP.

FEB.

23 S. —Founder's Birthday. College closed. Foundation stone laid
24 S. — [by Founder, 1873. Annual meeting of Trustees and
25 M. — [inspection of the College structure by the Bailiff.
26 Tu.—
27 W. —
28 Th.—

MARCH.

1 F. —
2 S. —
3 S. —
4 M. —
5 Tu.—
6 W.—Ash Wednesday. Meeting of Council.
7 Th.—
8 F. —
9 S. —
10 S. —
11 M. —
12 Tu.—
13 W. —
14 Th.—Meeting of the Academic Board.
15 F. —
16 S. —
17 S. —
18 M. —
19 Tu.—
20 W.—Meeting of Education Committee.
21 Th.—
22 F. —
23 S. —
24 S. —
25 M. —*Lady Day.*
26 Tu.—Spring Term Examinations begin. Last day for applications
27 W. — [for Examinerships, University of London.
28 Th.—
29 F. —
30 S. —Spring Term Ends. Medical Winter Session ends.

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CALENDAR.

March 8.—Students' Union.
" 13.—Physical Society.
" 15.—Students' Union.
" 19.—Poesy Club.
" 29.—Students' Union.

EDITORIAL.

Those of our readers who were present at the business meeting of the Union on February 1st, already know that we are issuing the seventh volume of the *Magazine* under somewhat changed conditions. In accordance with the resolution passed on that occasion, the *Magazine* year will, for the future, coincide with the College year, and the first number of Volume VIII. will be published in October, 1889, instead of in January, 1890. Volume VII. will, in consequence, contain only four numbers, but we trust it will make up in quality what it loses in quantity, and we take this opportunity of asking for the co-operation of all the students of Mason College in our endeavour towards this end.

PHRENOLOGY, OLD AND NEW.

To the enlightened readers of this *Magazine* the word Phrenology may very probably savour of a mixture of quackery and ignorance, and, in these days of scientific education, an article on such a subject may possibly receive a certain amount of supercilious contempt, and be passed over as being behind the times. We have only to look around us, in our cities and large towns, and in spite of our educational advancement, we find "professors" of Phrenology drawing crowded audiences, imbuing the minds of people, who pretend to be well educated, with ideas as erroneous as they are fanciful, and also benefiting

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themselves pecuniarily by means of their own deceits and other people's gullibility.

We thus see that Phrenology, in the old acceptance of the term, is not by any means obsolete, nor does it promise to be so, as long as parents in respectable positions have so much unthinking faith in it as to consult phrenologists as to the future career of their children, and as long as those who have hitherto been deceived do not give reasonable thought and enquiry as to its fallacies and absurdities.

The theory of the old Phrenology was formulated by Drs. Gall and Spurzheim in 1796. It consisted in dividing the brain into a large number of areas, each of which was supposed to represent some propensity, emotion, or faculty; a home was found for every mental effort, and a seat was assigned whence every manifestation of brain force emanated; the division was made as complete as possible, in order that every passion, sense, or proclivity to which human beings are heirs might have a place. It is, however, difficult to imagine what is meant by the faculty of "Human Nature," and what is contained in the convenient and comprehensive term "Agreableness."

Phrenologists hold, as the basis of their science, that when any particular faculty or propensity is extraordinarily developed, the piece of brain which they assign as the seat of such faculty or propensity becomes enlarged, and thus causes a corresponding eminence on the exterior of the skull. This is a very pretty and suitable idea for the last century, and it is quite refreshing to imagine the simplicity of the logic of the genius who originated it.

When at school he was unable to learn his lessons as well as a certain schoolfellow (though he admits that he thought he had more brains); he noticed that this boy had projecting eyes, and from this fact he drew the following conclusions:—

I.—This boy, because he could learn his lessons, had the gift of language.

II.—This gift was located in a piece of brain, which caused the eye to protrude.

III.—As a corollary, all people with prominent eyes have the gift of tongues.

Take another instance: He knew a certain lady who, he thought, had a large amount of what he called Amativeness. He noticed, on examining her skull, an eminence on the posterior and lower part: this, he concluded, was due to excessive development of the cerebellum. Then he laid down his law that the cerebellum

was the organ of love; it has now been proved that the function of the cerebellum is to group and co-ordinate muscular movements, and that it has no intellectual function whatever. What a great contrast there is between the audacity and cool presumption with which such conclusions were jumped at, and the methods of modern physiologists, as exemplified in such a text-book as that of Dr. Michael Foster!

If a plaster model, such as is sold by phrenologists, is taken, and the areas marked out upon it are copied as nearly as possible on to a human skull, the glaring falsities and delusive fabrications of phrenologists become very manifest; they may also be shown by examining a few of the "bumps" individually.

To find the "bump" of Alimentativeness—*i.e.*, the possession of a good appetite—you are instructed to draw a line three-quarters of an inch forwards from the front of the ear and you will be upon it. When this operation is performed on oneself a more or less well marked eminence is found; when it is done on a skull you find solid bone, the zygoma or arch of the cheek bone, upon which the lower jaw plays in eating, with no brain whatever behind it: this zygoma is developed in conjunction with the articulation of the lower jaw, and if, perchance, an individual possesses a good appetite, as a secondary consequence a more prominent zygoma might be developed. This is in favour of phrenology, but it is the only "bump" for which a physiological *raison d'etre* can be discovered.

The bumps of individuality, size, weight, colour, order, are all situated under the superciliary ridges, and are due to the development of the cavities in the frontal bone, which simply contain air. Take once more the "bump" of Amativeness: it is found to be a swelling on either side of the occipital protuberance, and is caused by the size of the muscles inserted into the base of the skull, and not by the projection of the cerebellum. If the "bump" of Philoprogenitiveness is taken, it is found to be a swelling at the posterior part of the head. When the skull is examined we find this is due to the occipital protuberance, which varies with the muscular development of the individual's back; inside the skull, corresponding to this point, four big veins meet in what is known as the torcula herophili, then comes the sub-arachnoid space, and if the brain is reached it corresponds to a part of the cerebrum and a part of the cerebellum, and it is scarcely probable that a small piece of each organ should be told off to love one's offspring. The only reason that can be assigned for Gall

making this absurd localisation, is that most people have a certain amount of regard for their offspring, and everyone has an occipital protuberance. So, taking each "bump" separately, the absurdity of its localisation might be demonstrated if space would permit.

The following are arguments directed not only against the phrenologists' localisations, but at the whole system itself :—

I.—On the skull itself the elevations marked off on phrenologists' models are never seen.

II.—Phrenologists' charts bear no resemblance to the convolutions of the brain.

III.—The intellectual power varies with the degree to which the brain is convoluted.

IV.—The impressions of the convolutions of the brain are not found even on the internal surface of the skull, much less therefore on the exterior.

V.—There may be eminences due to disease or accident which the phrenologist would mistake for highly organised faculties.

VI.—Although Gall divided the mind into as many faculties and propensities as he could discover, yet he ignored more than half of the grey matter of the brain.

VII.—The direct disproof of Ferrier, who experimented by cutting down carefully upon the brain, stimulated its surface by suitable means, and watched the effects.

Ferrier, by his experiments, was able to localise the functions of sight, touch, speech, movements of the limbs and trunk, and, as a consequence, disease in the brain has been localised, whereby the surgeon has been enabled to interfere, and in some cases to save life. Thus in recent years abscesses of the brain have been localised and opened, and tumours removed. These experiments may be said to give the lie direct to phrenology. Although this criticism of the old phrenology has been very brief, from the statements and facts given it shows in what light it ought to be viewed. The fact that it can exist, nay even flourish, in this, the most civilised part of the civilised world, does not say much for our vaunted educational advancement.

The modern or new phrenology, which is now to be put forth, might be recognised better under the name of Physiognomy, but it is really a phrenology built upon a true scientific basis, which consists essentially in examining the skull itself instead of the external markings. It is possible (if one does not allow himself to be deceived by a ricketty or hydrocephalic skull) to approximately

gauge the size of the brain, which may be taken as eighty-five per cent. of the cranial capacity, and remembering, from the investigations of physiologists, that the anterior and middle part of the brain are chiefly volitional and motor, and that the posterior parts are chiefly sensory, we are enabled to draw a good general conclusion; but in doing so we must not forget that the intelligence varies with the degree to which the brain is convoluted. The following things must also be borne in mind: firstly, that the size of the brain is proportional to the height and breadth of the individual; secondly, that it is larger in men than in women, perhaps from the fact that men are taller and more muscular, for women in proportion to their body weight have more brain than men; thirdly, that the brain is relatively larger in babies than adults, and bears a larger proportion to adult brain in male than in female babies—from this we may conclude that women do more to improve themselves, and therefore their brains grow relatively more than men's do.

The inferences that can be drawn from these facts are that women, generally, ought to be more intellectual than men, and it is on this account that little girls are chosen by enterprising theatrical managers to take such parts as Little Lord Fauntleroy. It may also be inferred that little men with large heads, other things being equal, ought generally to be the most intellectual of all; and these facts might furnish the reason why the average age of girls who pass the various standards in the Board Schools is less than that of the boys. But as it is found that the intelligence of the individual varies with the quality of the brain tissue, and as we cannot take slices from people's brains and examine them microscopically, all our inferences from cranial capacity must be taken *cum grano salis.*

Of far more importance than cranial capacity and the state of the skull in detecting the peculiarities of the mind, is the correct interpretation of expression carried by the face. We always associate certain dispositions and temperaments with certain casts of face; this is the result of judgment either innate or acquired, and that there is scientific justification for this will be shown.

There are two sets of expressions of a low type. The first, or fœtal type, is that in which the face of a grown-up person bears a resemblance to that of a child; this is due to the arrest of development in the individual. The characteristics are—(1) projecting forehead, (2) no bridge to the nose, (3) no chin, (4) large eyes, (5) general absence of definition to the face; such faces are common in our prisons and asylums. We associate these kinds

of faces with some kind of mental deficiency; we see arrest of development in the face, and logically conclude that there may be arrest of development of the brain, although this is not always so. The second set of the low class of face is inherited. The expressions (if the Darwinian theory is to be relied upon) are survivals from animal forefathers, which have not been eliminated during the process of evolution; this may be called the animal type, being due to arrest in the development of the race. The chief characteristics are—(1) receding forehead, (2) prominent teeth, (3) receding chin, (4) prominent malar bones, (5) nose without bridge, (6) small eyes, (7) large convex upper lip, (8) scanty hair, (9) large frontal sinuses. Such faces are most common in our prisons, and such is the face with which Mr. Punch depicts the moonlighting Irishman.

The reason why we avoid individuals of this type is easily explained by the theory of evolution. We rationally conclude that, as they have not got rid of animal features, the chances are that animal propensities are still lurking in their natures. We find the lowest races approaching this type the nearest, and diverging most from it are men with high-bridged noses, large eyes, and prominent chins; such are the faces of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Beaconsfield, and, for a woman, Miss Ellen Terry may be taken as the type. In addition to the permanent structural factors of the face there are those transient expressions—crying and laughing, for example—due to overflow of nervous energy along the most well-worn tracts. The wrinkled forehead, the mouth habitually depressed at its angles, will enable the most casual observer to make an approximate judgment of the character and temperament of the individual in whom they are seen.

Space will not allow the pathology of the expressions to be dealt with; but the grin of tetanus, the depressed mouth of palsy, those melancholy faces which tell the sad tale of cancer, the arcus senilis of fatty degeneration, are all manifest examples of expressions which cannot do otherwise than give a great amount of truthful information to anyone who takes the necessary trouble to interpret them, and they have a bearing upon the subject of physiognomy that cannot be ignored.

These few words on the subject of physiognomy, or the new phrenology, should show that there is far more true fathoming of the mind by observing the general contour of the features and expressions, than Dr. Gall and his followers ever dreamed of in their whimsical theories and ludicrous system of "bumps." It

does not approach the bounds of possibility how anyone, unacquainted with disease, ignorant of the modern philosophy of evolution, uninstructed in physiology, and knowing nothing of comparative anatomy, can pretend to read the secrets of the brain; and those who believe and trust in the capabilities of such specious sciolists may very well deserve the vain delusions and base deceits which will be theirs.

TIME.

Gone, gone, another year—
The Juggernaut of time
Hath rolled his wheels in blood again.—
We fight with space and pain,
We fight with crime;
But Time alone we fear.

Time hath not suffered check
As yet, from mortal hands.
Oh! men of science shrink not back,
But lead the bold attack,
Where Time commands
'Mid universal wreck!

Defy the monster Time,
Heartless, unpitying;
See how he mocks at human breath!
Devise, enforce his death!
Then may we sing
A triumph song sublime!

THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.

The Dramatic Performance, which took place on January 23rd, was, in many respects, a new departure. It was the first time that the Union had represented a play outside the walls of Mason College, and the result was anticipated with some curiosity, and not a little anxiety, by those principally concerned. It is our pleasant duty to congratulate both the committee and the actors on the decided success which they obtained—a success which was amply confirmed by the enthusiastic applause of a large audience.

Another novel feature of this year's performance was the excellent music so kindly given by the band, under the direction

of Mr. Rickett, which contributed in no small degree to the enjoyment of those present.

"The Honeymoon," though so well known to ordinary theatre-goers, was new to many of those who witnessed its representation on January 23rd. A few remarks, therefore, on the life of the author, and on its first production may not be unacceptable to our readers. We must confess to great ignorance on this point ourselves, prior to the beginning of this year, but having been asked countless times who Tobin was, and whether he had any connection with ventilators, we resolved to become acquainted with the circumstances of his life. There was some difficulty about this, as the only particulars given in any biographical dictionary were, that he was born in 1770 and died in 1804, and that he was noted as the author of "The Honeymoon." At last, however, we came upon the following notice:—

"One of the most popular plays on the stage, and which interests every audience, is 'The Honeymoon,' though at every turn it suggests 'The Taming of the Shrew.' The author, Tobin, is known but by this one piece, and a rather melancholy interest attaches to his history. He was a solicitor, who deserted his profession to write pieces, which he was offering to every theatre; one, indeed, 'The Faro Table,' was accepted at Drury Lane, and forgotten. 'The Honeymoon' was later offered, and similarly overlooked. 'Many and many a time,' says Mr. Kelly, 'have I accompanied him to Mr. Richardson's house to get back his comedy, but he never succeeded; excuse upon excuse was made, and no wonder, for they were in ignorance that it was in their possession, and after repeated calls, waiting jobs, and denials, the unfortunate author gave up the piece as lost.' He was presently attacked with consumption, and was about embarking at Cork, when he died. This was in November, 1804. Little over a month later, Wroughton, who was then stage-manager of Drury Lane, having nothing in the shape of a new comedy to produce, rummaged the prompter's room, where many plays lay neglected, it may be, never looked at. Luckily, one of the first that came to hand was 'The Honeymoon,' which Wroughton took home to read, and, on his own judgment, and at his own risk, had it copied, cast, and put into rehearsal."*

It is perhaps unfair to criticise a play, which was from the first intended merely to meet the requirements of the stage, from

* P. Fitzgerald's "History of the English Stage."

a literary point of view. Nevertheless, we must protest against the verdict of the gentleman who pronounced "The Honeymoon" to be the "best Shakespearian play out of Shakespeare." It has the obvious fault of challenging a comparison with "The Taming of of the Shrew," and "Twelfth Night," which it so closely resembles, and our attention is thus drawn to its somewhat feeble characterisation, and to the colourless nature of several of the speeches. This want of colour is especially noticeable in the soliloquies, which are long and numerous, and which require all the talent of an accomplished actor to make them bearable. There is a lack of *vraisemblance* about them, and we feel that they are dragged in merely to explain the situation. Nevertheless, "The Honeymoon" contains some really poetical passages, and it affords so much scope for original acting and for scenic effect that we may well ignore its literary failings.

The part of *Juliana*, the wayward but delightful heroine, was taken by Miss JOHNSON. Having had experience of her dramatic talents for several years, we expected great things from her, and were not disappointed. She was especially winning and unaffected in the later scenes of the play, where *Juliana* is at last brought to yield herself to her husband, and to acknowledge his authority. She was also very successful in the scene in which she and the Duke are visited by *Lopez*. Her disgust at the rustic's loutishness, and the contempt with which she regards him, while compelled to serve him, were capitally rendered. Again, in the first scene of the fifth act, where *Balthazar* comes to claim his daughter, the struggle between filial duty and wifely affection was exceedingly well sustained. All the more praise is due to Miss JOHNSON for the delightful manner in which she played this rôle, inasmuch as it is by no means an easy one. She appears in two characters: first, as the impetuous, almost shrewish bride, who has been spoiled by too much luxury, and by the devotion of her lover; and then as the submissive and devoted wife, anxious to meet the wishes of her husband in every point. It is the transition from the first mood to the second which renders the performance of this part so very arduous, as it is difficult to avoid letting the change appear too abrupt and groundless.

The part of *Volante* was admirably suited to Miss LLOYD OWEN. She appeared to the greatest advantage in the scene where *Count Montalban* visits her in the disguise of her confessor; the coquettish assumption of carelessness was here very well produced, and her imaginary conversation with her lover's portrait, by which

she betrays her real sentiments towards him, excellent. In the later scenes we considered that Miss LLOYD OWEN was scarcely so happy, but, as the interest in the second part of the play is so entirely absorbed by *Juliana* and *Zamora*, it is hardly fair to judge the part of *Volante* from the appearance which she makes in the later scenes.

Miss L. J. CHARLES, as *Zamora*, was very charming. The page's costume became her beautifully, and she displayed great talent in her interpretation of the character. The devotion with which *Zamora* bears with the eccentricities of the misanthropical *Rolando* was shown to a degree which awakened the liveliest sympathy of the audience, and her pathetic song brought down a storm of applause. A slight want of reality was felt in her soliloquies, but this, as we consider, is a fault inherent in the play, and not due to any failing on the part of the actress.

To turn to the male characters: Dr. W. R. JORDAN was very successful as the *Duke Aranza*, though this part was perhaps not so well suited to his person and voice as that of *Ion*, in which he obtained so much applause three years ago. The *Duke Aranza* is certainly a more gentlemanly character than *Petruchio*, but, according to our interpretation, he should have displayed more of the light-hearted gaiety of Shakespeare's hero. Perhaps, however, Dr. JORDAN considered that opposites attract each other, and that the wayward *Juliana* would be more likely to submit to a gentle and courteous, than to an arrogant husband. This was the only fault the most hypercritical observer could find with the part, which was throughout excellently played. The *Duke*, like his bride, showed to greatest advantage in the scenes of reconciliation, and in that of the visit of *Balthazar*. In the scene with *Jacques*, his dignified bearing contrasted very favourably with the vulgar swagger of the steward, whom the *Duke* has deputed to fill his place during his absence.

Dr. C. GREENE is so general a favourite on the Mason College stage that it is, perhaps, a little presumptuous in us to find any fault with his representation of the *Count Montalban*. He was very successful in some scenes—notably in that in which he appears as the friar, but in others we noticed a slight tendency to overdo the part, and considered his manner somewhat lacking in repose. His clear and effective enunciation was worthy of the highest praise—not a word was lost by the audience in any part of the room.

Mr. IRVINE took the part of *Rolando*, a misanthrope, whose life has been embittered by the coquetry of *Juliana*. In the early part of the play, where he protests so violently against womankind, we considered that Mr. IRVINE was scarcely so successful as in his scenes with the page. Here his delineation of the character was very good indeed, especially in the scene where *Zamora* makes herself known to him. Mr. IRVINE deserves special mention for the way in which he seemed to lose his own identity in the part which he took, and the illusion was carried out by the dress in which he was so completely disguised.

The part of *Balthazar* was well filled by Mr. KANNREUTHER. The stilted manner in which he delivered his speeches was excellently suited to the rôle, which Mr. KANNREUTHER seemed thoroughly to enjoy, especially in Scene 1 of Act v., where *Juliana* appeared really to have some difficulty in restraining her father's impetuosity.

Mr. F. SIMPSON must have felt amply repaid for condescending to the part of *Lopez* by the appreciative applause which was called forth by his interpretation of this character. His by-play was especially good.

Of Mr. W. BROOKS, also, in the part of *Jacques*, we cannot speak too highly. His arrogance towards his fellow-servants, and the difficulty he experienced with his refractory sword excited great amusement.

The prettiest scene of the evening was decidedly that of the dance. The becoming peasant dress of the ladies added greatly to the effect of the intricate measure which they and their partners trod with so much accuracy and grace. The greatest credit is due to Mrs. Humphreys for the perfect manner in which she trained her pupils.

Perhaps only those who actually have the management of a performance such as we had the pleasure of witnessing on January 23rd can really appreciate the time and trouble which are necessary to obtain a success. The many improvements which were introduced this year, especially the dance and the excellent music, added greatly to our obligations to those who are kind enough to provide us with this annual entertainment; and the mere transference of the performance to the Assembly Room, and the consequent ballot increased the difficulties of the management to a considerable extent. The most responsible people in such a dramatic performance are always those who do not appear before the house unless they are especially called upon to do so—the

Chairman of the Dramatic Sub-Committee, the Stage Manager, and the Secretary. These friends have the responsibility from the commencement—they must decide whether it is possible to act the piece selected, must take their share in alloting the parts, must manufacture the stage furniture, must be present at every rehearsal, must superintend the ballot, and, in a word, must hold themselves answerable for the smooth and easy conduct of the whole performance. Professor Hillhouse, as chairman and treasurer of the sub-committee, deserves the heartiest thanks of all those present for the indefatigable kindness he displayed to everyone, both on the eventful evening itself and during the preparations for it. Miss Charles, who undertook the duties of Secretary, showed the greatest energy in dealing with anxieties and responsibilities which would have overwhelmed anyone less capable; and Mr. F. Howard proved himself to be a skilled carpenter and most efficient stage manager, the celerity with which the scenes were changed being a matter for much wonder and admiration to the audience.

So many friends rendered assistance in various ways that it would be impossible to mention them all. To the following ladies and gentlemen, however, the Dramatic Sub-Committee was especially indebted for help:—Dr. Allen (who several times lent his room for rehearsals); Messrs. Thomas, Parrott, Stiff, Stead, Godson, Hunter, Ryder, Marris, and Foster (scene-shifters); Mr. Dain (general help); Messrs. Rickett, Woolley, and Huxley; Mr. Ledsam (who provided the chorus); Messrs. Royle Shore, jun., and Taylor (accompanists).

The following is a copy of the cast:—

Juliana	Miss JOHNSON.
Volante	Miss LLOYD OWEN.
Zamora	Miss L. J. CHARLES.
Mrs. Lopez	Miss KEEP.
Duke Aranza	Dr. W. R. JORDAN.
Count Montalban	Dr. C. GREENE.
Rolando	Mr. A. J. IRVINE.
Balthazar	Mr. KANNREUTHER.
Jacques	Mr. BROOKS.
Lopez	Mr. SIMPSON.
Attendants	Messrs. PARROTT & WALLIS.

The following ladies and gentlemen took part in the dance:—Misses. Bennett, Pearson, J. A. Pearson, McCardie, Hadley, Payton, and Brooks, and Messrs Charles, Wallis, McCardie, Tonks, Winn, Rainsford, and Marris.

THE UNION.

A large meeting of the Union was held on *Friday, December 21st, 1888*, to hear a paper by Mr. LEDSAM, B.A., on the "Italian and German Schools of Music." At the outset Mr. LEDSAM remarked that he had omitted the great composers, (Handel, Beethoven, &c.), since they were worthy of an evening to themselves. After briefly sketching the history of music from the classical to the early ecclesiastical times, he came to the 14th century, when Jean de Meurs, the reputed introducer of florid counterpoint, flourished. To this branch of music the Belgian School gave their attention. Counterpoint was invented by the Germans, and, like the Gothic architecture, it reflects the character and social situation of the northern nations in the middle ages. The ideal of the German artist rests within himself, and his efforts to express deep thoughts give rise to, not unfrequently, contrapuntal details and richness of harmony only comprehensible to such geniuses as J. S. Bach and L. van Beethoven. The Italian style was very different. Influenced by the classic remains around him, and by the serenity of his climate, the Italian artist was more inclined to outward expression in clear and simple form, with even a tendency to superficiality and cold formalism. Having thus differentiated the two schools, Mr. Ledsam proceeded to deal chronologically with their chief representatives. He began with Constanzo Festa (died 1545), who, though evidently a pupil of the Netherlandish School, yet displays the tenderness and simplicity of the Italians. He was a great writer of madrigals. His immediate successor was Palestrina (born between 1514 and 1524). In 1540 Palestrina went to Rome, and in 1554 he published his first book of masses. His masses won him the distinction of rescuing the Church music from barbarism. In Germany, meanwhile, Luther and the Reformers were publishing chorales for their hymns. A book of chorales was published in 1524 which had an immense influence upon the work of the Reformation. After eighty years we come, in Italy, to Alessandro Scarlatti, the founder of the modern opera. He was, too, the perfecter of the recitative, and the founder of the Neapolitan School of music. In Germany that nation's greatest fugue writer was flourishing. Johann Sebastian Bach, born at Eisenach in 1685, was the greatest of a race of great musical genius—he was the most typical representative of that family. In 1735 he finished the first volume of his forty-eight preludes and fugues. "His melody, his harmony, and his periods all seem to be of one mould, and an indestructible spirit of severe logic and an unalterable conformity to law pervades the whole as well as the parts." (Groves). Passing next to Italy, Mr. Ledsam dealt with Alessandro Stradella, and then with Domenico Cimarosa (born 1749), a celebrated dramatic musician, now chiefly known by his masterpiece, the opera "Il Matrimonio Segretto." In Germany Haydn, Mozart, Albrechtsberger, and Beethoven, and afterwards Hummel and Spohr, were flourishing. The next great German musician was Karl Maria von Weber (the son of a travelling actor and, like Bach, the greatest of a musical family), who went to Dresden in 1817, and there composed his three great operas "Der Freischutz," "Euryanthe," and "Oberon." "Der Freischutz" is the German national opera *par excellence*. Passing to Italy, Mr. Ledsam dealt with the opera composers, Rossini, Bellini, and Donizetti, and concluded a very interesting paper by a short account of the living Italian musician, Verdi. Mr. Ledsam expressed himself

greatly indebted to the ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the programme, especially to Dr. Allen, Mr. T. Johnson, Mus. Bac., and Miss Charles, B.Sc. for valuable help given. The paper was illustrated by the following programme :—

Part Song ..... "Down in a Flow'ry Vale" ..... *Festa.*
Pianoforte Solo ..... Sonata ..... *Scarlatti.*
Mr. DAVIS.
Chorale..... "Eine Feste Burg" ..... *Luther.*
Part Song ... "Venetian Boatmen's Evening Song" ...*J. S. Bach.*
Pianoforte Solo ..... "Prelude and Fugue" ..... *Bach.*
Mr. DAVIS.
Song..... .. "The Heart I ask of Thee" ..... *Bach.*
Mr. BIRCH.
Song... ...."Caro mio ben"..... .....*Giordani.*
Miss WHEELER.
'Cello Solo ....."Pieta Signore"..... *Stradella.*
Dr. ALLEN.
Pianoforte and String Quartet { Overture to "Il Matrimonio Segretto" } *Cimarosa.*
Song..... "Softly Sighs" ..... *Weber.*
Miss BROWN.
Part Song ..... "The Huntsmen's Chorus"..... *Weber.*
Part Song ..... "Carnovale"..... *Rossini.*
Two Duets ... { (a) "Ah, il ciel consenta"..... *Bellini.* (b) "Tornami a dir" ..... *Donizetti.*
Miss BROWN and Miss L. J. CHARLES.
Pianoforte Solo ..... *Schumann.*
Song ..... "La Donna è Mobile" ..... *Verdi.*
Mr. BIRCH.

January 18th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair.

Mr. J. R. SOLLY read a paper on "The Art of Reading Aloud." Mr. Solly divided the subject of the management of the voice under three heads—Breathing, Articulation, and Tone—remarking that the great thing to be observed is to fill the lungs from the very base of the chest, which operation is performed by drawing down the diaphragm. "Whoever respires by merely raising the shoulders and dilating the walls of the chest only fills the upper lobes of the lungs and breathes in an incomplete manner." In the matter of articulation, Mr. Solly referred to the importance of doing justice to every syllable, and quoted Mr. Horace Wigan, who advises his pupils to "bite the final letter." A great fault with most English people is that they will not open their mouths sufficiently. As M. Coquelin says, "The articulation is to speech what drawing is to painting. It should be the first study of the actor. The public *must* understand every word he says, however quickly he may say it." According to another French authority, (M. Regnier), very little sound should be employed, and all the movements should be exaggerated, as in the modern system of teaching deaf mutes to read from the lips. In illustration of this, Mr. Solly recited "Chiquita" and "Jim Bludso," by Bret Harte, in order to show the use of the *boules d'articulation.* As regards tone, Mr. Solly mentioned the importance of developing the chest

register, or what is called by the French, *le medium de la voix;* and cited Talma, who says, "I have owed to this half my talent, and I make it now one of the foundations of my teaching—a foundation more solid than this so much boasted inspiration." The second half of the paper was devoted to Expression, and Mr. Solly insisted on the importance of punctuation and of marking well all those rests which are necessary, not merely to bring out clearly the author's meaning, but also to give opportunity for breathing deeply, and, by assembling the words into small groups, to render them easier of articulation. It is most important to discover in each sentence *le mot de valeur*, or word of special weight, in order to throw it into relief. As M. Legouvé says, "One of the greatest advantages of reading aloud is that it affords an excellent means of literary criticism. To learn how to read a piece is to learn how to judge it. To read the poets to oneself is to become their acquaintance; to read them aloud, their intimate friend." Mr. Solly also quoted the following remark of M. Coquelin:—"In deciding on a subject for recitation before a popular audience, what is most to be sought for is action. Movement—that is the great law, the imperative law of poetry for recitation. Then try to see your drama; pull it to pieces, cut it up: the preliminary statement stops here; the action begins; farther on there is a pause in the movement, like the end of an act. Mark well these points. They are necessary in the distribution of the movement." As regards the delivery of verse, an expedient often resorted to in France is to put the essential ideas of the poet into forcible and familiar prose. Having thus discovered the natural inflexions which would be employed in ordinary speech, they can subsequently be introduced into the verse, and combined with the rhythm of the metre. Mr. Solly greatly added to the interest of his paper by the capital recitations with which he illustrated it. These consisted of a scene from "The School for Scandal;" "The Editor's Story," by A. H. Miles; "Buck Bryant's Evidence;" and "The Monologue of Ulysses."—A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. SPROAT, seconded by Miss KEEP, and carried unanimously.

February 1st.—Business meeting. Mr. F. HOWARD in the chair.

Mr. NEAL proposed, and Miss LINDSAY seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to all who had assisted in the representation of "The Honeymoon" on January 23rd. This was carried unanimously, and Mr. HOWARD returned thanks on behalf of the actors and of the committee.

Miss C. THOMSON then moved the following resolution:—"That the *Magazine* year shall coincide with the Union year, and that the subscription for Vol. VII., consisting of the numbers for February, March, May, and June, shall be two shillings, payable in advance." Miss Thomson pointed out the advantage which would ensue from the alteration to new students, to the treasurer, and to the editor. New students could commence their subscriptions at once, the treasurer would not be obliged to deal with the accounts of his predecessor, and the editor would have the satisfaction of issuing a complete volume. Miss Thomson then touched on the advisability of including the *Magazine* subscription in that of the Union.—Mr. BAYLIS, in seconding the resolution, emphasised Miss Thomson's remarks as to the difficulty caused by the election of a treasurer in the middle of the *Magazine* year.—Mr. NEAL, in supporting

the resolution, asked if the alteration would interfere in any way with the obtaining of advertisements.—Miss LINDSAY replied that, as nearly the whole of the advertisement money was not paid till the advertisements had been inserted, the alteration would make practically no difference.—Dr. BARWISE recommended that the subscriptions for the *Magazine* and the Union should be united. When the *Magazine* was started it had been thought that the circulation would extend to all members of the Union, but the subscription to the Union was now less than formerly; it would, therefore, be quite reasonable to increase it slightly, and to supply every subscriber with a *Magazine*.—The resolution was then put and carried, there being only one dissentient.

Professor SONNENSCHEIN then read a most interesting paper on "Ancient Greek Games." The ancient Greeks considered that games should form part of the education of children, and from the earliest age they were trained in physical exercises. In the nursery they had rattles, hoops, swings, and stilts; other games were, "odds and evens," "slap in the dark," "hunt the slipper," "catch ball," and "heads and tails." At school, gymnastics were a recognised part of the curriculum, and considered of as much importance as intellectual culture. The chief exercises of the palaistra were running, leaping, boxing, wrestling, fencing, javelin-throwing, and archery. Among the ancient Greeks symmetry was more considered than strength, and children were taught to use both hands with equal ease. The dance was carefully practised. There were, according to Plato, two chief kinds—the warlike or Pyrrhic dance, and the dance of peace. All these exercises were also practised by adults in a carefully constructed gymnasium, which served the purposes of both university and club. Competitions in athletics frequently took place. The most important of these was the Pentathlon, which comprised five events—running, leaping, throwing of the discus, throwing of the javelin, and wrestling. Boat-racing was also practised, but fowling and angling were considered unmanly. The Greeks had no games corresponding to our cricket and football, but they had a greater variety of sports, the advantage of which, in developing all parts of the body to an equal extent, was very great.—A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. LEDSAM, seconded by Miss EDWARDS, and carried unanimously.

February 15th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. The evening was devoted to readings and recitations, of which the following is the programme :—

Miss JOHNSON	"The Battle of Ivry"	*Macaulay.*
Mr. J. F. JORDAN	"The Isles of Greece"	*Byron.*
Prof. HILLHOUSE	"Edinburgh after the Battle of Flodden"	*Aytoun.*
Mr. BERLYN	"The Babies' Toast"	*Mark Twain.*
Dr. W. R. JORDAN	"The Cry of the Children"	*Mrs. Browning.*
Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON	"The Revenge"	*Tennyson.*

Miss JOHNSON'S clear voice rang out with beautiful effect in "The Battle of Ivry;" Mr. J. F. JORDAN'S recitation was very much enjoyed by those who sat in the front rows, but we think it can hardly have been audible at the back of the house. Professor HILLHOUSE'S vigorous reading transported us to the days of mediæval chivalry and heroism, from which we were suddenly led back to modern times by Mr. BERLYN'S extract from Mark Twain; this was fairly successful, but the selection

was hardly so happy as it might have been. Dr. W. R. JORDAN followed with a most sympathetic and effective rendering of "The Cry of the Children." The programme was brought to a close by Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON'S recitation of "The Revenge," in a powerful voice which more than filled the room. His rendering showed a good deal of sympathy, but we consider that he indulged in rather too much action.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. MINERS, B.A., seconded by Miss C. THOMSON, and carried unanimously.

POESY CLUB.

January 29th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—Miss EDWARDS read a paper on "The First printed English Comedy and Tragedy." In the course of her paper Miss Edwards said that until quite recently "Gammer Gurton's Needle" was thought to be the first English comedy. The author of this play was Bishop Still, who was born in 1543. We have now, however, proof that "Ralph Roister Doister" was in existence in 1551, when Still was only eight years old, and that it was written by Nicholas Udall, the head master of Eton School. As it was the custom at Eton, about the feast of St. Andrew, for the master to choose some Latin play for the boys to act in the following Christmas holiday, on this particular occasion Udall wrote an English comedy for them, upon the models, as he tells us in the prologue, of Plautus and Terence. In 1566 Thomas Hacket had a licence to print a play entitled "Rauf Ruyster Duster," and several allusions to the play and the characters in it are to be found in contemporary writers, which afford evidence of its popularity. The scene of the comedy is in London, and it is a representation of the manners of polished society. In point of plot, characters, and form, it possesses all the features belonging to a drama proper. The plot is amusing and well constructed, and the characters themselves carry on the story; the play is wonderfully free from coarseness and that childish buffoonery which marks so many of the plays of this period. It is lively, dramatic, full of action, its chief aim being evidently to afford amusement. During the latter half of the 16th century the tragedies of Seneca were being studied and translated, and in 1565 appeared the first English tragedy formed on the model of the tragedies of Seneca. Thomas Norton and Thomas Sackville, two young men well known to the Court of Elizabeth, and famous for their attainments in Latin and for their English verse, were the joint authors. "Gorboduc" is interesting for the following considerations:—(1) It is the first historical play founded on a story drawn from ancient British history (as then believed); (2) the treatment of the subject as well as the form of the play are partly moulded on the classic model; (3) blank verse, previously only tried in the verse of Surrey and Grimald, is employed for the first time in the drama. The story is taken from Geoffrey of Monmouth's British History, from which source Shakespeare afterwards drew his plot of the tragedy of "Lear," and turns on the evil consequences following from the division by King Gorboduc, during his lifetime, of his kingdom between his two sons, Ferrex and Porrex. As in the plays of Seneca, much of the action of the piece is told in the long speeches of some of the characters; murders, battles, &c., being announced by messengers.

The chorus of the Greek play is introduced in the form of ancient and sage men of Britain, who at the end of each of the first four acts appear and moralise upon the subject of the preceding act. Before every act there came in a dumb show accompanied by music, which foreshadowed the spiritual meaning of what was coming next. The blank-verse metre of the play, although a courageous and successful attempt on the part of the youthful authors, gives manifest evidence that the play was written in the tentative period of blank verse.—A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. LEDSAM, B.A., seconded by Miss LAKE, and carried unanimously.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—*Wednesday, December 19th.*—Eighteen members present.—During tea Dr. TILDEN exhibited a very fine crystal of calcite, and a case of phosphorescent sulphides; he also showed the occlusion of hydrogen by palladium with the aid of the lamp and screen. Dr. TILDEN in the chair.—Mr. Feirley was elected a member of the society.—The Chairman called upon Mr. C. F. M. Ward to read a paper on the Alkaloids. Mr. WARD commenced by giving a short history of the alkaloids, which dates back from the year 1803, when Derosne, of Paris, extracted from opium a crystalline substance which he called "sel d' opium"—probably a mixture of morphina and narcotina. In 1806 Serturner announced that he had obtained meconic acid from opium, and a crystalline body which was of a basic nature, and was capable of uniting with acids to form salts, and which in opium was probably united to the meconic acid. To Serturner, therefore, belongs the credit of first obtaining a natural alkaloid. It was not, however, until the year 1817, when he published the results of his work, that this discovery attracted attention. Since that date the alkaloids have proved a most interesting and fruitful source of research. The question of their constitution remained a profound mystery for a long series of years. It is not above fifteen years since the obscurity which surrounded this problem commenced to be dissipated. The discovery of the pyridic and quinolic bases powerfully contributed to give the researches a new vigour and a firm foundation, and shortly after the workers were rewarded by M. Ladenburg's synthesis of conicine, the active principle of hemlock. Since 1803 the number of alkaloids has been greatly increased; to-day it exceeds a hundred, and further researches will undoubtedly swell this number. The synthesis of some of the alkaloids proves that they are nearly all related to each other in being derivatives of ammonia. The author believed the results achieved to be strong pillars in the evidence in favour of the atomic theory and of the modern conceptions of the chemical constitution of bodies.—After a few remarks from Dr. TILDEN and Mr. LIVERSEEGE, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ward, and the meeting terminated.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—*January 31st.*—Annual Meeting.—Mr. SKIRROW in the chair.—The report of the Committee and treasurer's balance-sheet were read and adopted, the latter showing a substantial balance in hand. The treasurer (Miss K. M. Deane) and secretary (Mr. A. E. Jackson) were re-elected. The following ladies and gentlemen were appointed to serve on the committee :—Miss Charles, Miss Edwards, Messrs. Hackett, Hallwright, Ingram, Liversieege, Morrison, and Sadler.—Dr. NICOL then delivered the

inaugural address, "Chemical or Physical," in which he explained the theory of residual affinities, showing how, if this theory were true, it would be possible to explain the physical phenomena of cohesion and adhesion. On this theory, he pointed out, the old doctrine of molecules of equal size is utterly exploded, and we may even regard a bucketful of water or the ocean as a molecule. Assuming that water has residual affinity, we may easily explain the presence of water of crystallisation. The beauty of this theory seems to be its elasticity, as it is evident that, with suitable modification, it may be used to explain almost all phenomena in chemistry and physics.—This most entertaining and instructive address was followed by a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Nicol, proposed by Mr. INGRAM, seconded by Mr. JACKSON.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY. — A meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday, January 16th, in the Engineering Lecture Theatre. There were thirty present, including members of the Cycling Club and cycle manufacturers of the town. Messrs. Hill, Pountney, Craig, Cooke, Robinson, and Hackett were elected members.—Mr. RICHARDSON was voted to the chair.—Professor SMITH read a paper on "The Mechanics of Cycling." This gave us the results of some original investigations into the stresses and strains produced in different kinds of safety bicycles by the driving effort on the cranks, weight of rider, &c. As the paper was somewhat long, the discussion was postponed.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL MATCH.

MASON'S *v.* QUEEN'S.

This match was played on the Wycliffe Ground on Wednesday, January 30th. Mason's won the toss, and decided to play up-hill. Queen's started the sphere, and a brisk bombardment of their opponents' goal ensued. The Mason's backs cleared, and after some even play in mid-field, Barwell secured the ball, and, with a clever run up the right, scored the first point for Mason's. After the kick-off, Queen's had decidedly the best of the game, again and again bringing the ball close to their adverseries' goal-line, but being as often repelled, until, a few minutes from half-time, Stead equalised with a good long shot. After half-time Mason's, playing down hill, with the wind at their backs, opened the attack, Keep scoring a few minutes from the kick-off. After this the play became fairly even, the ball being taken from one end of the field to the other in rapid succession; Barwell adding another point to the credit of Mason's, while Queen's sent the ball through the posts a few seconds before the whistle blew for time. A very pleasant game thus ended in a victory for Mason's by three goals to two. Teams:—Mason's: Goal, Hackett; backs, Hawley and Harcombe; half-backs, Poole, Notley, and Nicholas; forwards, Barwell, Hallwright, Keep, Mackenzie, and Bryan.—Queen's: Goal, Shore; backs, Hancock and Chavasse; half-backs, Stead, Emery, and Chapman; forwards, Ritchie, Titterton, Boam, Roberts, and Pooler.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Owens College Magazine is published quarterly, and accordingly presents a comfortable and prosperous appearance. Happy editor, who has

but four times a year to face the prospect of going to press! The January number contains the conclusion of Mr. Tait's article, "In the Black Forest," as well as "A Swiss Scramble," by J. W. Graham, M.A. Both these papers are eminently readable. Poetry is represented by two sonnets by "Chiel," of which we like the second well; and by a short poem, "A Meeting," which is pleasant, though why the narrative should change suddenly in the middle from the present to the past tense we cannot divine. There is an abundant supply of college news. We note with interest that at Owens College the various societies, including a Shakespeare and a debating, as well as scientific societies, are amalgamated under the title of "The Owens College Union." The Union, as a whole, hold a soirée; whether any other meetings does not appear. The allotment of three pages to "Chess" is rather a novelty in college and school magazines.

The Central Literary Magazine prints the presidential address, "Is Marriage a Failure?" The author, with both humour and feeling, contends that if this be so the individual is responsible. Moral—amend the individual. There is a good paper on "French Humour," though we think the author is in the course of it unnecessarily severe on American humour. "John Locke" and "Tommy" make up a good number. We fail to see why the poem "Human Life" was written. The reason for its publication we imagine to be, that it serves to cover with printed characters more or less of a page of the magazine.

The Reptonian for December is a good number, but of interest almost solely to Reptonians. If some future O. R. does not secure a University prize for English verse the editors of this paper will have a right to complain, for their pages are freely thrown open to the school versifiers.

We have also received *The University College of Wales Magazine* and the *Institute Magazine.*

STUDENTS' SOCIAL EVENING.

A social evening was held in the Common Room on Friday, February 8th; Mr. TYLDEN-WRIGHT in the chair. There were about eighty present, and a very pleasant evening was passed, Professor Allen giving a pianoforte solo and a duet with Mr. Sproat; Messrs. Tylden-Wright, Taunton, Sapey, Brockington, Claridge, Simpson, and Howard giving songs; Messrs. Warmington and Minshull, violin solos; and Mr. Howard a flute solo. Mr. Davidson gave a short ventriloquial sketch, and Mr. Sproat accompanied the performers. —The evening concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the performers.

COLLEGE NOTES.

We have much pleasure in welcoming back Mr. A. J. Cooper, who has returned to Mason College after a long absence.

The brilliant illumination with which the Engineering students provided the members of the Union on the 1st inst. was an entire surprise. We congratulate them on their dazzling success, which was, however, somewhat overwhelming to those who issued, unprepared, from the Erebus of the corridor into the radiant glory of the Physics Laboratory.

We have to announce the resignation by Mr. A. H. Reynolds, B.A, of the offices of Secretary and Treasurer to the Editorial Board, in consequence of his accepting a post at Sandbach Grammar School, Cheshire. We take this opportunity of expressing our regret at his departure, and of congratulating him upon his appointment.

Mr. Reynolds's post on the Board has been accepted by Mr. W. H. Baylis, who promises to be equally energetic in his discharge of the united duties of secretary and treasurer.

Subscriptions to the *Magazine* are now due, and should be paid at once, either to Mr. Baylis or to any member of the Editorial Board.

We regret to announce the resignation by Mr. C. F. M. Ward of his office as Chairman to the Union, a post which has been accepted by Mr. F. Howard.

The Dramatic Sub-Committee desire to express their indebtedness to Mr. Humphreys who arranged the music for the performance of "The Honeymoon." We regret that his name was sent to us too late to be inserted in the Dramatic Report.

The following successes were gained in the recent Preliminary Scientific (M.B.) Examination, by students of Mason College:—*Second Division*, LOCKHART LOWE. Passed in one subject and completed the examination: EDWARD THOMAS JONES, JOHN NICHOLSON, THOMAS FISHER WOOLLEY.

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published on March 29th. Contributions, which are earnestly requested, should reach the Editor not later than March 18th.

MASON COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1888.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from 1887	2	0	4
„ Subscriptions	18	1	6
„ Advertisements	15	4	5
„ Sale of odd copies.....	4	18	0
„ Complete set of Magazines	0	2	6
Borrowed from Treasurer of M.C.U.	0	10	0
	£40	16	9

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Printing of Magazine	31	15	0
Other Printing	0	10	0
Stamps and Stationery	3	5	6
Paid back to Treasurer of M.C.U.	0	10	0
	36	0	6
Balance in hand (carried forward to 1889)	4	16	3
	£40	16	9

WALTER H. BAYLIS,
Hon. Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mason College, February 5, 1889.

Madam,—So great was my dismay on seeing the havoc which the compositor had played with my paper on Bailey's *Festus*, in your November number, that I refrained from writing to you at the time, for fear of saying something which I might afterwards regret. I therefore handed to your secretary a fully corrected copy of the *Magazine*, trusting you to insert a proper list of errata; but, since in the December number you corrected only those errors which were least important, I am constrained to write after all.

I do not trouble about errors of spelling. In a language like our own, where spelling is arbitrary, the compositor may be allowed to use his ingenuity in this line.—("Thou shalt not muzzle," &c.)—But I *do* object to his substituting for my words others of different meaning, and thus rendering my composition ridiculous; and more still do I object to his wanton alteration of the poet's verse.

Subjoined is a list of the chief errata; and I shall be thankful to all of your readers who will kindly insert the corrections in their November number.

Page 93, 2nd paragraph, 1st line,
for "I could" *read* "I would."
Ditto 2nd line,
for "the poems" *read* "the great poems."
Page 96, 8th line from bottom,
for "would" *read* "might."
Page 97, middle paragraph, 7th line,
for "lofty expressions" *read* "lofty aspirations."
Page 98.—The first quotation has a whole line omitted! It should read—

I'll woo thee, world, again,
And revel in thy loveliness and love.
I have a heart with room for every joy;
And since we must part sometime, while I may,
I'll quaff the nectar in thy flowers, and press
The richest clusters of thy luscious fruit
Into the cup of my desires.

Same page, next paragraph, 4th line,
for "noble" *read* "nobler."
In the last quotation on this page the intensity of meaning is quite destroyed by a change in one word. It should read—

Thou art my first, last, only love; nor shall
Another even tempt my heart.

Page 100.—In the quotation the poet's rhythm and meaning are spoilt by a tautological interpolation. The sixth line of the verse should read—

Though love be but a shade,

Same page, last paragraph, 1st line,
for "imagined" *read* "imagines."
Page 101, 2nd line,
for "fiend" *read* "fund."

It would overtax your readers' patience to point out the unnecessary italics which are introduced; I therefore leave it to their good taste to ignore them where they see them to be unnecessary, while at the same time they may correct the punctuation and spelling according to their own views.

Yours faithfully, F. J. ALLEN.

To the Editor, Mason College Magazine.

[The Editor regrets that no corrected copy of the Magazine was ever shown to her, and that the list of errata was therefore incomplete.—Ed. *M. C. M.*]

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CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

MARCH, 1889.

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2 Tu. —Meeting of Library Committee.
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CALENDAR.

March 29.—Spring Term ends.
April 24.—Summer Term commences.
" 27.—Cyclists' run to Coleshill.

"MACBETH" AT THE LYCEUM.

Life would be a simple matter if every "poor player who struts and frets his hour upon the stage" of the real world could be compelled to suit the outer to the inner life in accordance with stage traditions, or if the actual villain were honest enough to adopt these peculiarities of gesture and intonation which so usefully distinguish his theatrical brother. The moral physician called in to "minister to a mind diseased" would find his diagnosis easy. Rolling eyes and distorted features would be serious syptoms; the guttural growl and the guilty whisper would mark the rapid progress of disease; and the patient would be finally given up on the exhibition of hopelessly drawled vowels and fatally-lengthened ls and rs.

Some such familiar reflections must occur to most spectators of Mr. Irving's clever impersonation of Macbeth. How easy it would be to detect traitorous thoughts if they would but reveal themselves in these sidelong looks, these muffled tones, that diabolical working of eye and eyebrow! But, on the other hand, how difficult would such thought-reading become if murder could array itself in the lovely and gentle guise with which Lady Macbeth is invested by Miss Ellen Terry! Were the first interview between the pair enacted in dumb show, it might well pass for the meeting of a fair saint with a demon-haunted devotee, whom she in her pure enthusiasm exhorts to some high and holy emprise.

Both actors render their parts in a manner which must be called original, since it is strongly opposed to the popular ideal of the two characters; but Mr. Irving's originality is marred by melo-dramatic artifices which ought to be relegated to their own proper

habitat. There is no doubt, however, that in each case the rendering is powerful and intellectual; how far the play as thus imagined corresponds with the conception of Shakespeare, and how far, as acted, it approaches a high standard of dramatic excellence, are questions not so readily answered. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth differ as the man who lives in the world must differ from the woman who lives at home. He can foresee, because he has seen; he can follow out his plans, good or bad, because he lives in direct contact with events; he may learn wisdom at last, for experience is his master. If she fails in all these matters, it need not be from original feebleness, but rather from lack of opportunity.

Mr. Irving, I imagine, will give perfect satisfaction to few even of his warmest admirers. From his first appearance on the stage till his death at the hands of Macduff he is the genuine melodramatic villain. He is this, and more; for his mobile features at times express all the intellectual subtlety and fiendish malice of Mephistopheles himself. Lady Macbeth complains—

> "Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
> May read strange matters."

But surely the brow of her rugged Scottish thane did not bear the devil's most modern signature. Else, even the unsuspicious Duncan would have been able "to find the mind's construction in the face." Macbeth is the average man of action, not naturally the villain, and never approaching the fiend. His distinctively human faculties are ripened even by his progress in evil. But Mr. Irving represents no such development, which is the more surprising since, in his preface to the acting version, he directs attention to the fact that "Macbeth reigned seventeen years," and that "it is therefore reasonable to suppose that the last three acts cover some considerable space of time." The warrior in the prime of life becomes a king, with grey hair and furrowed brow; but there is no corresponding mental change, no suggestion that the intellect has matured and that the moral nature is beginning to germinate.

Perhaps Mr. Irving succeeds best in the scenes where Macbeth is confronted with the spectres of his own crimes, because that side of the character which he emphasizes and exaggerates throughout the whole play is here brought into prominence. The brave soldier has become for the moment a superstitious coward, and cowardice is one of the qualities which distinguish Mr. Irving's Macbeth. But we are made to feel too utter a contempt for his anguish. We see

a feeble nature losing self-control, rather than a strong nature struggling with unconquerable agony. In the line—

> "Macbeth doth murder sleep!—the innocent sleep,"

there is a touch of remorse, if not of repentance, which should not be lost by a delineator of fine shades of emotion.

But it is in the closing scenes that Mr. Irving seems to fail most completely. Macbeth standing at bay with a lion's fury, yet showing fitful gleams of a deeper and truer self; so weary of life that sorrow for death seems a mockery, yet prepared to defend himself to the last with the courage which belongs to him by nature and by training; clinging to the witches' prophecy, but ready to die with harness on his back if it prove false: Macbeth in this last desperate struggle is a figure almost heroic, and at least entirely human.

But even here Mr. Irving's Macbeth is nothing but the baffled and cowardly fiend. The actor displays a perverse ingenuity in substituting arrant cowardice for desperate courage. For instance he pronounces the line—

> "There is nor flying hence, nor tarrying here,"

as though flight would be the preferable alternative. His words to Macduff—

> "Of all men else I have avoided thee:
> But get thee back; my soul is too much charged
> With blood of thine already,"

are spoken with a malignant scowl, as if inspired solely by the weird sisters' warning—"Beware Macduff!" Yet it is natural enough that Macbeth should feel a certain remorse in presence of one who so terribly recalls his deep blood-guiltiness, and that he should shrink from sealing with this man's life the record of slaughter.

The momentary weakness of the exclamation, "I will not fight with thee," is of course emphasized by the actor; and though Macbeth dies fighting, he dies almost as a craven.

But if Mr. Irving's impersonation must be pronounced a clever and forcible libel on Shakespeare's hero, what shall be said of Miss Ellen Terry's charming and sympathetic rehabilitation of that *femme incomprise*, Lady Macbeth? Who can fail to be moved by her feminine grace and enthusiastic wifely devotion; by the physical fragility which contrasts so strangely with her iron resolution; and, most of all, by her wonderful rendering of the sleep-walking scene—the dream-like utterance, the heart-broken moan, the slow retreat and faintly echoing cry of the delicate white-robed apparition?

And yet, when the illusion is past, and when the exquisite vision is no longer present to bewitch the judgment and charm to silence the critical faculty, who can believe that this is the tragic heroine of Shakespeare—that into this gentle nature thoughts of murder could gain even a momentry access, or, if implanted there by some strange compulsion, could ever mature and be consummated in act?

There is one scene in which even Miss Terry's magic fails to reconcile the personality she has created with the words she is obliged to speak. I refer to the passage where she plans the details of the murder, and suggests that the two chamberlains—

> "His spongy officers, shall bear the guilt
> Of our great quell."

It is quite impossible to believe that this fair creature, seated caressingly at her husband's feet, and looking up into his face with almost playful affection, is seriously uttering words so inhuman—is actually plotting treachery so base. The incongruity becomes still more striking when Macbeth cries—

> "Bring forth men-children only!
> For thy undaunted mettle should compose
> Nothing but males."

These lines are meaningless when addressed to so completely womanly a woman as the Lady Macbeth who enchants us on the Lyceum stage, and the accompanying embrace totally destroys their significance. The pair are evidently masquerading, and the plot is but a jest—a flight of fancy—anything but the inception of a guilty tragedy.

Between the acting of Miss Terry and that of Mr. Irving there is, however, a difference of quality which must be felt more or less by every observer. She is no more the Shakespearian heroine than he is the Shakespearian hero, but while he never for an instant convinces us that he is anything but a theatrical compound of Shylock and Mephistopheles she does win our belief, subject to brief intervals of scepticism, in her existence as a real living individual, not indeed a Lady Macbeth, but also not a mere Miss Ellen Terry overlaid with stagey reminiscences. We certainly have more than one reason for gratitude to this delightful actress. Macbeth has to be moulded to Mr. Irving's idiosyncrasy, since Mr. Irving cannot apparently mould himself to Macbeth; and the result of this metamorphosis is undoubtedly impressive, but as undoubtedly painful. Not for a moment, from first to last, do we feel a touch of sympathy with the character as thus represented.

Were Miss Terry the traditional Lady Macbeth, fierce, relentless, imperious even in her wifely affection, the whole effect would be too repulsive and too devoid of human interest. Her tenderness is absolutely needed to relieve the oppressive and monotonous gloom of the play, and when she finally vanishes from our sight we feel that the spell is broken, and that what follows can be little more than a dreary anti-climax. She has enabled us to witness with pleasure what would else be an intolerable nightmare of mean ambition and cowardly tyranny.

The last word must be one of thanks to Mr. Irving for his perfect setting of the drama, and for the beautiful pictures which he has added to the treasures of our memory. The chorus scene, especially, is exquisite and ethereal beyond description; and if this moon-lit choir resembles a company of angels rather than Hecate's crew, it is impossible to wish that the vision were more congruous and less enchanting.

CONSTANCE C. W. NADEN.

THE RETURN OF KING HORN.

[The following is an attempt to put into modern verse an episode in the old English Romance of King Horn. The circumstances of the event have been slightly altered, but the main facts are reproduced. The original romance may be found in Morris and Skeat's "Specimens of Early English," Vol. I.]

Seven years she waited in the north,
And still no tidings came,
And oft at eve she wandered forth,
And dreamed she heard his name
Borne on the breeze across the seas
From that far western land,
Mingled at times with the curfew chimes
And the wash of the tide on the sand.

And many a suitor sought her hand,
And many a lover came;
Nought recked she of their gold and land,
Nought recked she of their fame.
But ever as she passed to mass,
As a sister, stoled in black,
She seemed to listen and hark behind,
To hear a voice in the whistling wind,
And a step on the following track.

But though the seventh year neared its close,
In the merry month of May,
The time of lily and of rose,
When field and wood are gay,
When the bloom is white upon the thorn,
And the birds sing in the grove,
She heard no echo of his horn,
No tidings of her love.

And he was dead, the old King said,
Had perished in the west;
And she should wait no more, but wed
Modi, his royal guest,
Lord of the barren northern shore,
Of the land of ice and snow,
Cruel as the tiger crest he bore,
Base friend, and treacherous foe.

And the days wore on to the marriage morn,
And they would not grant delay—
Seven years from the going of King Horn
Should be her wedding day;
And still she sat by the western shore,
In a tearless agony,
And marvelled sore at the grief she bore,
And more that she could not die.

Now dawns the day; in white array
The maidens deck the bride,
And many a gallant hastes that way,
And many nobles ride;
And her father laughs, as the wine he quaffs,
And thinks, "When the maid is wed,
"When the ring is on, 'twill be all as one
"If Horn be living or dead."

The word is said, the two are wed,
The bride nor smiles nor weeps,
But, as a watcher by the dead,
An awful silence keeps.
Within the castle hall all day
A royal feast is spread,
And all are there, for all may share
In the wine and manchet bread.

And, as the ancient custom is,
The bride must pour the ale—
A heavy task for one, I wis,
Who looks so wan and pale.
She pours alike for knight and squire,
For beggar and for priest,
For palmer and for wandering friar,
Who crowd to share the feast.

Then cries a palmer from the rout,
"Now, lady, pour for me!"
Amazed, she turns herself about
And gazes wonderingly.
Surely that voice she knew of old,
Loved and remembered well!
Yet nought she sees but a palmer bold
With his branch and scallop-shell.

Trembling, she pours with lavish hand
Into the earthen jar,
None may the cup of horn demand,
Save those who noble are.
But, ere the palmer took the draught,
He cried in angry scorn,
"Give me the cup whence those have quaffed,
The cup of polished horn!"

The lady gazed in haughty pride,
Yet something in his mien
Obtained what she had else denied;
"Now thanks, my gracious queen!"
He drained it half, then gave it back,
And laughed right merrily;
"Now drink to Horn on thy marriage morn,
To Horn, of the west countree!"

Her cheek grew pale, and then the blood
Flashed through her veins like fire;
"Oh, tell me, evil news or good,
Of him I most desire!"
The palmer took the horn, and slower
He drank the red wine up,
"Queen, when thou goest to thy bower,
Look well within the cup."

The twilight falls upon the land,
The wedding guests are gone,
Far from her merry maiden band
The pale queen sits alone.
She looks within the cup of horn,
And lo, a marvel there!
The ring she gave her love the morn
They parted in despair.

"Now hither lead the palmer bold,
He comes from o'er the sea,
Some tidings sure, for love or gold,
From Horn he brings to me!"
Her maidens said, "Ah, lady fair,
If Horn be still in life,
It can but add unto thy care,
Since thou art Modi's wife."

The palmer came, but ere he said,
Her heart had guessed the truth;
He came with firm and conquering tread,
The lover of her youth.
"Ah, Rimenhild, from o'er the sea,
With many a battle won,
I came to bring my spoils to thee,
Queen whom I love alone!

"I came, but as I neared the shore
I heard a merry bell,
The wedding chimes were wafted o'er
To me as a death-knell.
And as at last on land I sprang,
Those whom I questioned cried,
'For Rimenhild the sweet bells rang,
And she is Modi's bride!'

"And, since I might not come as one
Who comes to claim his love,
With honour and with kingdoms won,
No more from home to rove,
I dressed me as a palmer poor,
And mingled with the rout
Who thronged around thy palace door
With noisy laugh and shout.

"Ah, little did we dream of this,
When, with unwilling feet,
We parted with a last long kiss,
We thus again should meet!
Yet, since thy love is swift to fly,
Since thou art Modi's wife,
Now let us say a long goodbye,
Farewell for death and life!"

She gazed on him without a tear,
And drew her robe aside,
She showed two daggers hidden there,
"Now, look ye what I hide!
A dagger for my new-made lord,
And one for my own sick heart:
He made me swear a lying word,
Have I not played my part?"

"Ah, deeply shall the traitor rue
He stole from me my bride!
A hundred gallant knights and true
Have I equipped to ride,
And by the sword shalt thou be won
A second time, my queen,
Or ever this June night be gone
Or to-morrow's light be seen!"

All night she hears the sound of arms
Rage on the shore below,
The angry noise of war's alarms
Above the water's flow.
But ere the morning star has set,
The sound of strife is o'er,
Modi and Horn in war have met,
But so shall meet no more!

And when the first rays of the sun
Lighten the eastern sky,
King Horn at last his bride has won,
And the seven long years are by;
And the halls are filled with dance and song,
And the sound of minstrelsy,
And the merry bells ring loud and long
Beside the western sea. C.

THE NEW ADAM.

[This paper was begun by two science students, but as they found it impossible to agree about the bridging over between the inorganic and organic worlds, one was obliged to continue it alone, and in consequence the chemical theory is not so well worked out as it would otherwise have been.]

By careful and patient scientific study and research great results have often been arrived at, and great discoveries made. Equally important facts have, however, often been hit upon, as it were, by chance, as was the case with the discovery of specific gravity by Archimedes, and the electric current set up by two metals in contact by Galvani.

An imaginative science student can, however, be constantly making new discoveries, though, as a rule, they are of minor importance, and not of any good to the world in general; still, from a scientific point of view, they are extremely interesting.

During the present session many new discoveries have been made within the walls of Mason College; many errors have been discovered in the accepted value of many physical quantities, such as the acceleration of gravity, value of π, co-efficient of expansion of the air, &c.; but besides these mathematico-physical discoveries, which might have been due to deficiency of mathematical brain-cells, various practical applications have been made of scientific facts. In connection with the ear, for instance, it is quite evident that a very loud noise, (say a violent knocking on the bench behind you), sets the otolithes in rapid vibrations to and fro; they impinge on the hair-cells with such force that they cause a sensation of pain instead of sound to travel along the auditory nerve. This can also be explained on the supposition that the vibrations cause too great a strain on the tensor tympani and stapedius muscles, and the sensation of pain is conveyed through them.

Another very evident fact, and one not generally considered, is that certain stimulants have the effect of depriving the semi-circular canals of their functions, so that the power of equilibration is lost. (N.B.—This is from observation, and not from personal experience.)

A very curious discovery has been made that the brains of some individuals are similarly electrified, so that knowledge cannot pass from one to the other, but is repelled. On the other hand, it has often been observed that some people possess great affinity

for each other, though they may often have very opposite tastes and sympathies. This arises from the fact that they are in opposite electrical states. All these discoveries, together with ideas of a purely speculative nature, such as that possibly the pineal eye would have had the power of microscopic vision, have been agitating the minds of several Mason College students for some time.

And now at last a most stupendous discovery, far outstripping all the others in importance and vastness, has been arrived at. Possibly it may not be altogether original; but what is perfectly original? There is nothing new under the sun, so there can be no perfect originality. Was Darwin's idea of evolution altogether original? Had it not been fermenting in the minds of scientists before him? For centuries all the greatest scientists and philosophers have been devoting their mighty intellects to the momentous question of the origin of the human race. For the first few generations of men probably no thought was given to the subject; in fact, the protoplasm of which their brains were composed was not sufficiently diffierentiated for them to be capable of long and sustained speculation; all they could do was to grind their flint weapons and defend themselves against adverse external conditions. Gradually they began to use their intellectual powers to a greater or less extent, and finally to think and speculate upon their origin. They reasoned that such complex and wonderful organisms as they were could only have sprung from the gods; therefore they must be the offspring of the gods, and the gods infused into them the breath of life. As time went on most people, if they thought at all, were contented with the explanation given by the ancient myths, and it was heresy to believe that man was not specially created; indeed, they had no reason to give for believing otherwise.

But of late years the question "Who was Adam?" has been continually agitating the public mind. No longer are we sent to the stake or Inquisition for free-thinking, and so such great minds as Darwin and Haeckel have been developed, and vast and important theories have been put forth. None of these have been altogether perfect—each new theory adds to and improves on the previous one; and we, if our theory is in some points similar to former ones, cannot be put down as mere plagiarists any more than Haeckel and Darwin were.

To judge by recent papers and researches in Chemistry, chemists have still their glorious dreams of discovering the elixir of life and

turning everything into gold; but their gold is not such material gold as formerly—it is more hypothetical. They have never yet discovered it. The gold they wish to find is the origin of all the elements—the original Protyl from which they are all derived. Lately the idea has come up that the elements are not so fixed and definite as they were formerly considered, the idea of evolution has been carried into the domain of Chemistry, and it is believed that under different conditions of heat, pressure, etc., the elements as we know them might be greatly modified. Through the researches of spectrum analysis the idea has sprung up that if we could find an element with only one line in its spectrum, that would be the original element from which all others are derived by condensation.

As Hydrogen is the element which approximates nearest to this state, Hydrogen is by some chemists looked upon as the original Protyl, so that from it we can trace all the other elements, which are more and more condensed as their atomic weights increase, and from the elements we pass to compounds including the vast assemblage of Carbon compounds.

With such countless and complex forms of carbon compounds, having such differing properties, it does not seem at all improbable that at some time ages ago a combination in the right proportions of the elements necessary for the formation of protoplasm might have occurred. People say that there is a difference between dead and living protoplasm, and that life is not a property of protoplasm, but that protoplasm is the physical basis of life. But why should not life be a property of protoplasm? When the protoplasm dies it might merely lose one of its carbon atoms, and so its properties would be different, and it would be an unstable compound. In considering life we should not take that exhibited in the highest forms, but life as it is in the amœba, and this does not seem to differ very much from a chemical property; the thrusting out of the pseudopodia to procure food might be likened to the bonds of the atom of oxygen seizing hold of the atoms of sodium. How do we know that the atoms are not analogous to amœbæ or monads? It is evident that they make their way through space in some extraordinary manner, and this is another point in which they resemble contractile protoplasm.

There is still another point in common: an amœba after absorbing food grows, and eventually divides into two; an oxygen molecule, after combining with two atoms of carbon, also grows, and forms two molecules of carbon monoxide. Having seen, then,

that protoplasm may be merely a carbon compound, with definite chemical properties, we must trace its further development.

From the first germ of protoplasm we can trace the evolution of all animal and vegetable forms. Of course many of the links in the chain are at present missing, but considering the vast æons of time since the first organism was formed, it is wonderful that our knowledge is so extensive as it is.

Assuming the primordial germ, which must have resembled the amœbulæ of the lower Protozoa, by absorbing nutrient material it would increase in size, multiply by division, and the amœbulæ thus formed would coalesce to form an aggregation plasmodium, as in the Mycetozoa. From this to the planula stage exhibited in the embryological development of all higher forms is a great step, but might not a large vacuole have been formed in the centre of the plasmodium, and the cells be arranged so as to form a sphere bounding a large central cavity? Now in one division of the Mycetozoa reproduction is effected by means of a column-like outgrowth from the plasmodium, on which a spore is developed. This is evidently differentiation of one part of the protoplasm for a special purpose; and can we not imagine that a few of the cells in the planula might be set aside for the definite function of nutrition? To better effect their purpose they might have become invaginated to form a cup-shaped depression; this would deepen and so the archenteron would be formed, and the lining layer of cells would be the endoderm. Thus we have a metazoon similar to Hydra evolved from a simple protozoon. From this stage tracing the evolution upwards is not so difficult; we derive great aid from the Recapitulation hypothesis, which holds that every organism in its embryological development recapitulates its ancestral development in time. The vertebrate embryo goes through a planula stage, and a gastrula stage similar to the adult Hydra; then the mesoblast is formed, and traces of all the adult organs begin to appear. The formation and then repression of the gill-clefts is a point of great importance, and gives us evidence that all the higher vertebrates passed through a fish-like stage. Segmentation is never carried to such an extreme degree in the embryo as it is in the earth-worm or crayfish, so that it seems probable that vertebrates were derived from the less segmented forms of the lower Vermes; then, by gradual differentiation of certain cells for special purposes, the nervous and vascular systems, special sense organs and skeleton might have been formed.

By gathering together evidence we might in time obtain an almost perfect gradation of forms. The loss of intermediate forms is a great drawback; but it would be contrary to the laws of natural selection for the intermediate forms to persist for a long time, because they would not be so well able to maintain the struggle for existence as the more perfect forms produced. Most probably no forms are stationary; all are either progressing or degenerating. The descendants of the Reticularians which formed the chalk rocks may have evolved into monads by this time, the descendants of the Hydræ in the pools during the Coal Ages may now be water-snails; so that it does not require a great stretch of the imagination to see how the fish could have become an ape and the ape a man.

It is quite evident that Adam would have been just as much an ape as he was a man, and it would be very difficult to draw the line and to know which was Adam and which was only an ape; so it seems advisable to go farther back for Adam—as far back as the first protozoon. That individual might be called Adam; but then if life is only a chemical property of protoplasm the evolution did not begin there, so we must go back further still—back through all the Carbon compounds till we come to Carbon, Oxygen, and Nitrogen, which are all condensations of Hydrogen.

The monkeys in the Zoological Gardens are therefore, so to speak, our n^{th} cousins, the fish we eat for dinner our $(n+m)^{th}$ cousins, and so on, till we come to sugar and starch, which are still more distant cousins, and back to our common ancestor—Condensed Hydrogen, the New Adam.

A SCIENCE STUDENT.

THE UNION.

February 22nd.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair.—The evening was devoted to a debate on the resolution, "That the present system of loan and interest is radically unsound."

Mr. D. STEAD, opening on the affirmative, explained that the resolution of the evening attacked one part of the present system of political economy, which was, he believed, completely unsound. He did not advocate the abolition of interest under present social conditions. Starting with the axiom that men are endowed with the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the speaker said that these rights were attached to certain responsibilities, the chief being the duty of working for the general good, in return for money, which should approximately obtain an equivalent amount of work. But a man was not entitled to more than this if he chose to postpone his claim to the payment for a length of time, since he had not done any more work, and the circulation of the money had benefited the community, and, through the community, himself. Mr. Stead then defined *iches*, *wealth*, and *value*. *Riches* was a comparative term, implying a

corresponding amount of poverty in some other persons or nations. *Wealth* consisted in the possession of things essentially valuable by those who were able to use them. *Value* was the availing power of anything towards life. Mr. Stead then considered several cases of loan and interest. In the case of a tradesman starting with money borrowed on interest, he said that that interest either came out of the increased prices paid by the public for the goods of the tradesman, or out of the profits of the tradesman—*i.e.*, out of the paymen he was entitled to for the work he did in acting as the middleman between producer and consumer. In the case of money invested in companies, (such as railway companies), Mr. Stead said that here the shareholders did no work, and in taking their dividends were simply taking advantage of the necessities of the public to effect a legal robbery from it. Railways should belong to the State. The last case was that of money invested in Consols. Here a man lent to the Government his savings, and received interest yearly on them. When he died he left a claim on the nation for the same yearly interest to his heirs, who were thus enabled to live while shirking their duty of working. Such a system tended, not to the real *wealth* of the nation, but to the *riches* of the few and the *poverty* of the many.

Mr. MINERS, B.A., opening on the negative, said that commercial matters were governed by a natural law that money was worth money. The lending of the superfluous capital in the world to tradesmen was advantageous, not only to the lender and borrower, but also to the public, since the consequent production of more goods engendered a healthy competition. The late J. S. Wright owed a good deal of his success to the help given him by his bankers early in life. It was argued that lending money on interest was immoral, because the Israelites had been prohibited from doing so; but they were only forbidden to lend money on usury to their brethren of the same nation; it was not forbidden to lend money on usury to foreigners. And in the parable of the Talents we had an express injunction to lend money on usury, for the servant who had not put his money out at interest was reproved. The fact that money was sometimes lent at exorbitant rates was no argument against the soundness of the system. The giving of interest was the greatest inducement to perform what was the duty of all—namely, to provide when young against a possible old age. If interest were abolished, men would not save. The verse "To him that hath shall be given" contained the kernel of political economy. Would Mr. Stead, having had, say, £1,000 left him, go to his banker's and decline to draw the £25 per annum interest? If he did, then "from him that hath not shall be taken, (in time), that which he hath." The speaker hoped that he had satisfied his audience that the present system of loan and interest was *not* unsound.

Mr. BAYLIS, seconding the resolution, said that he did not think the opener on the negative at all understood the position of the proposer of the resolution. His position was that the system was unsound as a part of our present unsound economical system. Mr. Baylis did not think the reference to the parable of the Talents particularly happy, for that parable was directed against the non-employment of opportunities, and was not a eulogium of usury. With regard to the contention that the system of interest was sound as being a part of the system of competition, he condemned the present system of competition as responsible for many social evils—*e.g.*, sweating and commercial immorality. The system of interest was part of the

monopoly of capital by which men were able to live on their fellow-creatures without doing any work. It was monstrous that a man should be able to draw, as Consols, an income from the working taxpayer's pockets, with which to live in idleness and luxury, because his ancestor had lent the nation money—which had probably been repaid more than once.

Mr. BROWETT, on the negative, argued that when a man lent money to another, for the other's convenience, he was entitled to interest for the use of it. The abolition of interest would take away one great incentive to saving. In some further remarks Mr. Browett mentioned that the first Manchester Ship Canal Bill provided that no interest should be paid during the progress of the works. In consequence, though the scheme was backed by the financial position of the Rothschilds, no one would subscribe. Without interest no one would lend; neither would Mr. Stead.

Mr. TARN, B.Sc., for the resolution, considered that usury was a burden on labour, and thought it was monstrous that holders of Consols should receive money, taken from other people's earnings, without any return. But he did not think interest could be altogether abolished. He would abolish the present monopoly of currency, and establish a reformed system of banking, in which paper currency would be issued at a low rate of interest (say one per cent.) on the security of deeds, &c. By some such scheme the evils of the present system might be eradicated.

Mr. SPROAT, for the negative, thought it rather strange that the unsoundness of interest had not been discovered before. If interest were abolished, loans must be also. Surely, if a man risked his money by lending it, he was entitled to some consideration.

Miss LINDSAY considered that brotherhood, not competition, should be the dominant influence in men's dealings. The laws which Mr. Miners referred to were not laws of physical but of human nature, and human nature could be considerably modified. Still, she thought the factor of self-interest could not be entirely eliminated; it was necessary, in order that people might do their best. With regard to the proposal for nationalising railways, she thought that Government might muddle them as it did other things.

Messrs. WARMINGTON and PODESTA having spoken on the negative, Mr. STEAD replied. He said that Mr. Miners agreed that 50 per cent. interest was wrong; but why not 5 per cent. also? Answering Mr. Sproat, Mr Stead said that, among others, Plato, Aristotle, and Shakespeare had found out the unsoundness of the system. With reference to railways, why, if the State carried our letters and parcels, could it not carry ourselves? Referring to the Manchester Ship Canal, people were only human, and liked to get money without working; but that did not show the soundness of the principle.

The resolution was lost by 29 votes to 17.

March 8th.—As the subject on this occasion was a paper on "Stage Jottings" by the Chairman, Mr. HOWARD, he vacated the chair in favour of Dr. W. R. JORDAN.

After tracing the connection between the mystery play and the modern drama, Mr. HOWARD proceeded to consider the development of dramatic art at the time of Shakespeare. The first theatre was probably one built in Shoreditch in 1570. All the playhouses of this time were constructed of wood and were open to the sky, and the centre area, known as "the yard," was unseated. During the performance it was the custom for wits, critics,

and young gallants who were desirous of attracting attention to station themselves on the stage; but as their remarks ultimately became so irritating to the actors that on one occasion a fight ensued, the custom was abolished. There was no scenery, but at the back of the stage there was a balcony, which served as a window, gallery, or upper chamber. The floor was strewn with rushes, and when a tragedy was to be performed the stage was hung with black. One understands from these arrangements how comparatively simple the scene-plot was in those days. Previous to the civil wars there were upwards of a dozen theatres in England alone, but during the Rebellion the drama was nearly extinguished. At the Restoration it revived, but plays ceased to be a plebeian entertainment; and this state of things continued even to the time of Garrick's entrance on the stage in 1740. In high life it was the custom to celebrate all important occasions, such as a marriage festival, with stage performances. No money was taken, and none but the *élite* were admitted, so that it was only on very rare occasions that the citizens obtained a view of the entertainment. Little more than a century ago there were only six or seven theatres in the whole of England, and three of these were in London. At this time a hard fight was going on as to who should grant the patents, and the question was not settled till the Licensing Act was passed. The taste in theatrical matters was then decidedly low; the plays of Shakespeare were all altered and remodelled to suit the popular taste—for instance, in "The Merchant of Venice," *Shylock* was the comic part, and was played by the low-comedy man. When Garrick took the management of the Drury Lane Theatre he announced his intention of playing Shakespeare's plays from the true version; but, though a reformer in his day, he also took liberties with the original text. The influence of France also tended to debase the English drama by the introduction of the operatic element. Davenant turned "Macbeth" into a sort of melodrama, interpolated with songs and choruses by Matthew Locke. Mr. Howard then passed to the consideration of the state of the modern stage. Since it is proved that the stage can, when it likes, furnish reasonable amusement, and yet does not always do so, the fault lies probably with individuals. There is much room for improvement, and it would be well if the spectacular, unseemly muddle of pseudo tragedy and comedy should give place sometimes to drama proper. There is little doubt that the stage has changed intellectually—changed to whatever can entertain the eye or ear; so that all that concerns the drama has come to be more important than the drama itself. Yet there are among us men and women who can so identify themselves with the part they play as to become the part itself, and this is really acting. It is in a great measure due to the modern playgoer that the state of the modern drama is unsatisfactory. If those who have conscientious scruples about encouraging it would assist in its purification, they would do much towards making the stage a means of culture as well as of honest diversion.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Professor HILLHOUSE, seconded by Mr. HAINES, and carried unanimously.

March 15th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair.

Professor ARBER suggested that the question of adopting College colours and badge should be considered.

A debate was then held on the resolution, "That the introduction of Free Education would be prejudicial to the best interests of this

country." Mr. T. TURNER, in moving the resolution, said that the term "Free Education" was a misnomer, since the education would not be free, but certain classes would have that free which other classes would pay for. The proposers of the Education Act of 1870 had a threefold object in view—(1), to complete the existing voluntary system; (2), to use the co-operation of parents; and (3) to spend as little as possible of public money. Since education benefited the individual, the locality, and the nation, each of these should pay their share towards the cost. Under the old voluntary system it was calculated that of the cost of education one-third came from Government grants, one-third from voluntary subscriptions, and one-third from fees. Mr. Turner thought that this proportion should still hold when voluntary subscriptions had been replaced by rates. These three sources of income were like the three legs of a tripod; if one was shortened or lengthened the whole system was weakened. In answer to the argument that there were so many arrears of fees, Mr. Turner said that in Birmingham the bad debts were only 1·7 of the total fees. He exhibited statistics to show that in Birmingham the proportion of the cost raised by rates was far higher than the average throughout the country. The policy was, he said, to bring down the fees to vanishing point, and then argue that they were not worth collecting. The speaker also showed figures to prove that the present voluntary schools, cost being considered, compared favourably with the Board schools. As to the argument that since education is compulsory it ought to be free, a person was obliged to wear clothes, to take food, to sweep the snow from before his door, &c., but he was not provided with clothes, food, shovels, &c. His objections to free education were—(1), it would interfere with the Act of 1870, which was approved practically by the whole nation, and had not yet had a long enough trial for us to condemn it; (2), it would take power from the individual and locality and centralize it in the Government; (3), it would tend to pauperize the poor people while not benefiting them; (4), though very convenient for despotic governments like China and Germany, where the children were taught the blessings of government, and became good machines, it would not suit England, since it took away the individual's self-respect; (5), it would stop voluntary effort.

Miss SOUTHALL, opening on the negative, agreed with Mr. Turner that the term "Free Education" was a misnomer; but since everybody understood what was meant, no difficulty could arise. Approval of the Education Act of 1870 was not so general as Mr. Turner supposed—it was strongly disapproved of by Messrs. Chamberlain and Bright, and others of the Birmingham league; and surely eighteen years' trial was enough to test its value. It pressed hardly upon poor parents in that, besides increasing their expenses, it deprived them of the earnings of their children for some years. If free education would pauperise the people and lower their self-respect, why did not free libraries and museums do this? Were our colonists, who already enjoyed the benefits of this system, wanting in self-respect? The motive of self-preservation was strong enough to induce people to wear clothes, and eat food, and the physical inconveniences which result from a neglect of these duties soon brought about their fulfilment; but this was not the case with education. Although the schools were now, as it were, only half-open, juvenile crime had enormously diminished since 1870. Why not throw the doors wide open, and accelerate the rate of this diminution? With a system

of free education the time now spent in collecting the fees by teachers and others would be saved; and the contributions of the working men, instead of being concentrated on the time when their children were at school, would be spread over all their lives. The voluntary schools, under this system, should also be free, but under popular control; while the money now paid as subscriptions would be set free for other church and philanthropic work.

Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON, in seconding the resolution, argued that under a system of free education the working man would be freed from the contribution he now paid, and it would be put on to the shoulders of the already heavily-taxed shopkeepers. As to the statement that this system had succeeded in America, were Americans better and more self-respecting in their political life than the English? Free education would destroy the voluntary schools, and thus extinguish religious education.

Mr. TUCKWELL, seconding on the negative, said that if education benefited only the individual, it would be right to make him pay for it; but since its benefits were national, the State should pay for it. The present system made those who could pay despise those who could not. Free education might be thought impracticable, but he believed that some of those present would see a system of free education granted to an enfranchised nation.

Mr. PODESTA, on the negative, said that previous speakers had neglected one great class of society—the dregs. How to aid and elevate these was one of the greatest social problems. Under the present system they shirked sending their children to school as much as possible. If education were free they would have no inducement to do this. They would not be pauperized, for nobody felt pauperized by using a free library or park. As to the Act of 1870, it was merely a compromise between some forward spirits and a great mass of inert opinion.

Professor HILLHOUSE, though taking no side in the discussion, protested against Mr. Turner's use of the figures. The cost of education was entirely different in the town from the cost in the country, for many new Board schools had had to be built in town since 1870, and the cost of education included the cost of building these schools.

Mr. TURNER explained that the new schools were paid out of a sinking fund, and the interest only made a small part of the expenses.

Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON, on the negative, did not see that denominational schools would be extinguished by free education.

Mr. SPROAT wanted to know where free education was going to stop? He thought that compulsory education was the cause of the existence of so many half-starved clerks.

Mr. BAYLIS informed Mr. Sproat that free education would include that elementary education which every child, of whatever station in life, required. The cause of the existence of half-starved clerks was rather under-education than over-education, inasmuch as they had not learnt the dignity of even manual labour.

Mr. LEDSAM, B.A., on the negative, said that he had at first been inclined to the side of the affirmative, but, after considering the question, had come to the conclusion that free education was right. It was humiliating to poor people to have to parade their poverty in order to get the fees remitted. Education was the birthright of every child.

The debate was also continued on the negative by Dr. BARWISE (who argued that education did not improve morality) and Mr. HASLUCK (who was against State-aided education as a principle altogether).

Mr. TURNER, in reply, said the cause of the diminution of crime was that the children were out of harm's way in school: playgrounds would do just as well. Parks, bridges, and roads were things which a man could not provide for himself, and therefore were different from education. (A VOICE: If you can pay toll to go into school, why not to cross a bridge or enter a park?). One single Board school in Birmingham received more a year than was promised to a college like our own.

The resolution was carried by 37 votes to 21.

POESY CLUB.

February 26th.—In the absence of Professor ARBER, Dr. W. R. JORDAN took the chair. Mr. KANNREUTHER read a paper on George Herbert, and Mr. BRANSON, B.A., one on "The Metaphysical Poets."

In the course of an interesting description of Herbert's life and works, Mr. KANNREUTHER said that the chief authority for his private history is Isaak Walton's Biography. Born of noble family, he received a good education, first at Westminster and afterwards at Cambridge, where he was made Public Orator, and where he was for a time very successful. His early hopes of Court preferment were not realized, and this is perhaps the reason why he was afterwards so stern in denouncing all social gaiety. Circumstances made him a clergyman, and his life from that time is a story of wonderful devotion to the Church. His great claim to remembrance rests on his poem, of many poems in one, "The Temple," which is a very compendium of conduct, and gives us in a few pages the condensation of the teachings of the Prayer Book. It is replete with mysticism, the humour that was Herbert's own, unceremonious bluntness of allusion, peculiar quaintness of expression, sound common sense and reproof, with just that thin veil of scarcsm that adds a spice to it. Though Herbert's work is by no means highly finished, he possessed artistic instincts which revealed themselves in his fondness for writing poems in the shape of sacred symbols. As a whole his poetry is very deficient in depth, and it is impossible to help thinking that he would have attained a higher standard of composition had his highest aspiration been devoted to poetry; yet it is hard to be severe in judging the literary work of a man whose splendidly moral life it so truly reflects. Of all poetry, that which is didactic obtains fewest readers; and the fact that Herbert's poems, which are not only didactic, but hymnal in character, have survived for so long, is a high tribute to their individuality.

Mr. BRANSON, B.A., then read a paper on the School of Herbert, taking Crashaw and Vaughan as types of the "metaphysical poets." Richard Crashaw was educated at the Charterhouse and at Cambridge. Being of Royalist tendencies he was ejected from Cambridge by the Parliamentary Commission, and soon after this he joined the Roman Catholic Church, and went abroad and obtained the post of secretary to Cardinal Palotta, who also procured for him the post of Canon at the Lady-Chapel of Loretto. This office he did not long retain, as he died in 1560, after only a few months' residence there. The influence which Herbert exerted on the productions

of his younger contemporary was very great, but is perceptible rather in choice of subjects than in manner of expression, for in poetical power and delicacy of feeling the master is far surpassed by his follower. The whole of his writings, however, are characterized by a perpetual straining after conceits, which sometimes results in peculiarly felicitous touches, but, in the main, weakens the effect by vapid artificiality. One noble quality, however, must be recognised in all his writings—that is, their high moral tone.

Vaughan, who was born in 1622, in South Wales, received a good education at Oxford, and subsequently qualified as a physician. He then retired to his native place, and settled down as a country doctor. Most of his more notable works were produced there, at dates ranging from 1650 to 1678. His secular poetry is comprised in three collections, entitled "Olor Iscanus," "Thalia Rediviva," and "Aurea Grana." The sacred poems consist chiefly of two collections, the "Silex Scintillans," and another part of the "Thalia Rediviva." Vaughan is by no means a slavish imitator of Herbert, though he implicitly acknowledges a debt of spiritual guidance to him in the graceful tribute of "The Match." The religious poems of Vaughan afford a marked contrast to those of Crashaw, whose fire carried him to immoderate lengths in versification and metaphor. Here we have a perfect calm, no ecstacy, no excitement; but while the general character of his work is greatly improved thereby, we miss those striking terms of expression which gleam here and there like gems in the rugged verses of the preceding poet.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss CHARLES, B.Sc., seconded by Miss C. THOMSON, and carried unanimously.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—The first Annual Meeting was held on Monday, March 4th. The Report showed that three meetings of the Association had been held since its inauguration on February 20th, 1888. The officers for the present year were elected as follows:—President, Professor ALLEN; Vice-Presidents, Professors BRIDGE and HILLHOUSE and Dr. HOGBEN; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. C. F. MYERS WARD; Committee, Misses CHARLES, DEANE, MATHEWS, Messrs. HAINES, INGRAM, and J. F. JORDAN. Professor BRIDGE read a very excellent paper on "The Teachings of Development," dealing especially with the "Recapitulation hypothesis." The paper was discussed by Mr. BARCLAY, who also moved a hearty vote of thanks to Professor Bridge. This was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting was held on Monday, February 25th. The officers for the present year were elected as follows:—President, Professor BRIDGE; Vice-Presidents, Professors ALLEN, HILLHOUSE, Dr. HOGBEN, and Messrs. TEICHELMANN and J. F. JORDAN; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. C. F. MYERS WARD; Committee, Miss SOUTHALL, Messrs. DAIN, C. A. GREEN, BARCLAY, HARCOURT, and PERRY. Professor ALLEN then gave a demonstration of "Kühne's Artificial Eye," and the meeting terminated by a hearty vote of thanks.—N.B.: The Physiological Society, at its last Annual Meeting, increased its scope to include Zoology.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—*February 21st.*—Dr. POYNTING in the chair. Mr. HOUSMAN read a paper on a "New Form of Electricity Meter." He

began by pointing out the differences between an efficient motor and meter. Passing on to the special form of meter in question—viz., Hookham's meter—he explained how, in this instrument, the speed is made strictly proportional to the current. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. JACKSON; this was followed by a short discussion. There were twenty-five members and visitors present.

March 13th.—Dr. POYNTING in the chair. It was proposed by Mr. SKIRROW, seconded by Miss EDWARDS, and carried unanimously, that Dr. Nichol should be elected an honorary member of the society. The following experiments were exhibited:—Brush Discharge in Vacuo, by Dr. POYNTING; Effect of Fog on Sunlight, by Mr. SKIRROW; and Singing Sand, by Mr. LAVERY.—Mr. WHITEHOUSE then read his paper on "Delany's Multiplex Telegraph," in which he fully described, by the aid of several diagrams, the whole system of working, whereby as many as six operators at each end are enabled to receive and send messages along a single wire. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. TUCKWELL, seconded by Mr. NEWMAN, and carried unanimously.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—*March 13th.*—Professor SMITH in the chair; twenty present. Mr. G. WALKDEN read a paper on "The Lancashire Boiler," describing the construction, equipment, and setting. This was followed by a short discussion, in which Professor SMITH, and Messrs. RICHARDSON, WATKIN, KNIGHT, NEWMAN, and CHALLEN took part.

CYCLISTS' CLUB.

The Annual Meeting and Social Evening was held on Tuesday, March 12, and was attended by about sixty members and friends. Tea was provided in the Physics Laboratory, and an adjourned meeting was held in the Students' Common Room. Dr. POYNTING presided, and the ordinary business of the club was transacted. The following is a list of the officers for the present session:—President, Dr. POYNTING; Vice-presidents, Professor SMITH and Dr. NICOL; Captain, Mr. JACKSON; Sub-captain, Mr. COOKE; Treasurer, Mr. G. H. MORLEY; Secretary, Miss EDWARDS; Committee, Miss DEANE, Dr. ALLEN, and Mr. LANGFORD. An interesting and enjoyable programme of vocal and intrumental music and recitations was given, and included the following items:—

Recitation ... "King John and the Abbot of Canterbury"...Miss JOHNSON.
Song ..... "A Slumber Song" ..... Miss L. J. CHARLES.
Recitation ..... "The Red Fisherman"...Mr. W. R. JORDAN, M.B.
Solo ..... "Invitation to the Valse" ..... Miss E. EDWARDS.
Recitation ..... "A Legend of Hampshire" ..... Mr. HOWARD.
Song ..... "The Message"...Mr. W. B. FEATHERSTONE, M.B.
Song ..... "The Mistletoe Bough" ..... Miss L. J. CHARLES.
Part Song ..... "The Months: March" .....

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Professor SMITH and seconded by Mr. DAIN, to the Chairman and the ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the evening's programme, was carried with acclamation.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL MATCH.

MASON'S *v.* QUEEN'S.

The return match between the Colleges was played at Handsworth on Friday, 22nd February. Both Colleges were well represented, and a very good game resulted.

The Mason's men kicked off up-hill, and play was confined to mid-field for a time, until Wilkes and Roberts got away on the right wing for Queen's, but were stopped by Harcombe. Mason's then attacked, but could not get past Hughes and Hancock. Wilkes and Roberts again became dangerous, Wilkes especially playing a very good dribbling game. They were repulsed, and Ritchie, on the left, was a moment afterwards stopped by Hawley. The play was chiefly confined to the Mason's end of the field for a time, a good shot passing just over the bar. Field next got away towards the Queen's goal, making a brilliant run which nearly resulted in a goal. From the goal-kick the Queen's men broke away, but were stopped by the Mason's half-backs. Shortly afterwards Roberts received a kick and was compelled to retire into goal, Shore coming forward in his place. Half-time was called with no goals scored. Upon resuming the Queen's attacked, but were stopped, and the whole of the Mason's forwards got well into the Queen's goal but could not score. Shortly afterwards they again got away, Field making a splendid run in the centre, and finishing by scoring a goal for Mason's. From the mid-field kick the Queen's, playing a rough game, forced the ball up the field, Field being badly hurt and obliged to retire to half-back. The Mason's men again got away, but the ball was put outside. From now to the call of time the play was confined to Mason's quarters. The Queen's men played up well, and by a good low shot scored, making the game equal. They again attacked, Wilkes being especially conspicuous, but no score resulted until a minute or two before time was called, when they rushed goal-keeper and ball through, the game ending in favour of Queen's by two goals to one.

The conspicuous men for the winners were Wilkes, Roberts, and P. A. Shore, who all played a good forward game. Hughes was conspicuous on account of his rough play. For Mason's the best forward was Field; the half-backs all played a steady game; Hawley and Harcombe played a grand back game, and they were ably supported by Harris, who played a really splendid game in goal. He only made one mistake—in the first half, and it was not his fault that the Queen's scored at all. One thing we should like to ask—Were the umpires satisfied with their decisions? The Mason's players were not, especially as the last goal was scored three minutes after time was up. Mason's team:—F. J. Harris, S. H. Hawley, E. T. Harcombe, H. T. Butcher, M. J. Nicholas, W. L. Bullows, J. J. Podesta, J. Bryant, Field, G. Hallwright, and J. Hackett.

COLLEGE NOTES.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. E. F. Ehrhardt has obtained the degree of Ph.D. at the Royal Bavarian University in Munich, and that he has received an appointment as chemist at the celebrated Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, at Ludwigshaven am Rhein.

We note with pleasure the formation of a *Magazine* Club among the lady students.

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published on May 17th. All Contributions should reach the Editor on or before the 7th of May.

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German Society.
Scientific Societies.
Cyclist's Club.
Our Contemporaries.
College Notes.

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1889.

June.

1 S. —
2 S. —
3 M. —
4 Tu. —
5 W. —Meeting of Council.
6 Th. —
7 F. —
8 S. —
9 S. —WHIT SUNDAY.
10 M. —College Closed. Whit Monday.
11 Tu. —
12 W. —
13 Th. —Meeting of the Academic Board.
14 F. —Registration of Candidates for Matric. } Last day for Certifs. for Int. Arts and Sciences, and Notice for Prel. Sci.
15 S. —*Id.* ————————————— }
16 S. —Founder died, 1881.
17 M. — Matric. Exam.
18 Tu. — *Id.* ————
19 W. —Meeting of Education Committee. *Id.* ————
20 Th. — *Id.* ————
21 F. — *Id.* ————
22 S. —
23 S. —
24 M. —MIDSUMMER DAY. Last day for Certifs. for Int. Med. Exam.
25 Tu. —
26 W. —SEMESTRAL EXAMINATIONS BEGIN.
27 Th. —
28 F. —

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CALENDAR.

May 31.—Students' Union. Business.
June 1.—Poesy Club Excursion to Cambridge.
" 11.—Poesy Club. Papers on "George Wither."
" 14.—Students' Union. "The Philosophy of Anarchism."
" 28.—Students' Union. Musical Evening: "Haydn."

TWIN SOULS.

A SKETCH.

Chapter I.

Geoffrey Heath found himself in a terrible dilemma. He was a man who dressed well and was fond of society, and one of his friends, with the indulgent view of his character which is the privilege of friendship, had accused him of being the slave of fashion and dependent for all his pleasures on the pomps and vanities of this wicked world. To rebut these charges he had made a ridiculous bet that during three weeks of the long vacation he would lead an entirely solitary and unconventional life. He had retired for this purpose to a lonely Welsh village called Wyncon, situated on the banks of a river about half a mile from the coast; and here—meanly clad, unkempt, and unshaven—he had encountered one of Society's Princesses out for a holiday—the neatest, daintiest, prettiest piece of womanhood imaginable. During the first week he saw her, not once, but many times, sauntering along the delightfully shady and sinuous walk by the river-side; and every time that his eyes took in the beauty of her sunny face and graceful form he railed on Lady Fortune in good set terms for the cruel trick she had played him. Why should they have met *here* of all places on earth?—here, where there was no means of getting an introduction, and where he was condemned to be in so wretched a plight that no girl of refinement could regard him with anything but disgust and contempt. There seemed to Heath to be only one consolatory feature about the matter. He

felt convinced that, as he expressed it, "there was no other fellow." Not that it mattered in the least to him whether there was or there wasn't; still, of all monopolies, that of a pretty girl by anybody but one's self is the most detestable. During these seven days the young lady in question had been unattended save by a very small boy, called Percy, who addressed her as Aunty Lucy, and once caused some embarrassment by exclaiming, at the sight of Heath's unmistakably red hair, "Aunty Lucy, do look! There's a man with his head on fire." On the eighth day, however, as Heath was taking his favourite walk by the river-side, he was startled to hear deep masculine tones blending with the clear soprani of Aunt and Nephew before they turned the angle which would bring them into view. "I run the wellest," Percy was informing his companions, "you must be my tram. That's it." Heath was accustomed to hear Lucy give an enthusiastic assent to Percy's wildest whims, and to be tram, train, 'bus, or boat, as that small lord of creation willed it; but she was now too much absorbed in conversation to take any notice of him until he had recourse to violent remonstrance by means of his legs. It was then that the third voice became distinctly audible and struck with a dread familiarity on Heath's ear. Unless he was strangely mistaken, that voice belonged to Moncrieff of Magdalen—a man he knew well and liked much, and whom under any other circumstances, he would have welcomed with effusion. But how could he face him and his fair companion *thus!* Horror-struck at the thought, Heath jumped the rather precipitous wall which flanked the path, and stood concealed in its shadow while Lucy and Moncrieff passed by, continuing their conversation in serene unconsciousness of an auditor. Hence to his other miseries was soon added that of the eavesdropper, who never does hear any good of himself.

"I was really getting frightened about that fellow," Moncrieff was saying; "your letters were full of nothing but allusions to 'Carrots,' as you euphemistically called him. By the way, a very original nickname. I never heard it applied to a red-haired person before, except in the case of a fellow named Heath of Magdalen. And talk of red hair! I never saw any that wasn't a pitiable pink by the side of his. But poor Heath does his best to expiate nature's sins; he makes himself decent somehow, while, from your description, 'Carrots' must be an unmitigated brute."

"*You* would think so, of course;" laughed Lucy, "we never agree on these matters. But I can assure you he has only just missed being a perfect Adonis. If his hair were but a shade less

vivid, and half the breadth of his nose had been added to the length, and last, but not least, if he wore the dress of civilisation, I ——" Here Lucy dropped her voice mysteriously, and the unfortunate "Heath of Magdalen" could hear no more. But he had heard enough to rob the river of its charm and utterly destroy his peace of mind. Moncrieff was evidently engaged to this slightly sarcastic siren, and although his tones were almost too confident, it seemed as if something akin to the seeds of jealousy had been sown in his heart already. At any rate, his instincts warned him that Moncrieff would not be particularly glad to recognise a friend in "Carrots" or to introduce him to his *fiancée* as a gentleman who usually wore the "dress of civilisation." Under the circumstances he thought the best thing he could do would be to take himself out of the way as quickly as possible. Accordingly he retraced his steps to his lodgings, made the heart of his landlady rejoice by giving up his rooms just after paying for a week in advance, and an hour later was steering the small sailing-boat, in which he spent most of his time, in the direction of a still lonelier spot than Wyncon, a little higher up the coast.

Chapter II.

Heath spent an extremely tedious ten days in the vain endeavour to banish Lucy's image from his mind and get up an enthusiasm for nature pure and simple. He then came to the conclusion that if he did not have immediate change of scene the £50 of his bet would probably be put to the melancholy purpose of defraying his expenses at a lunatic asylum; and to escape this horrid fate he set sail in his impulsive fashion for Wyncon. The day was sultry, and the air so heavy and still that Heath soon had to have recourse to the oars to make any progress at all. It was hot work, but the pleasurable excitement of a return to the paths, not of man, but of one small fairy of a woman, rendered him almost unconscious of the atmospheric conditions, and he pulled away with such magnificent energy that in less than an hour he caught sight of the first indications of Wyncon. There was a rock which had been pointed out to him as dangerous, and there in the distance was a fishing-smack, whose build and sails seemed familiar. All at once he noticed that it was growing very dark. A mass of cloud had spread itself over the face of the heavens, and now excluded the sun's rays, which had been beating down fiercely all day. Anticipating a storm, Heath redoubled his efforts, and

skimmed the waves at a rate which he was just comparing—not without some excusable pride of muscle—to "greased lightning," when he was startled by a vivid electric flash, followed by a long reverberation of thunder. Almost at the same moment a stiff breeze sprang up, and Heath had to give all his attention to his sails. It soon became a fierce struggle for existence. The waves grew higher and higher, and threatened every moment to engulf his tiny craft; and, had he not torn down the jib, the wind, which rapidly developed into a gale, must have capsized it a dozen times. Happily for him, his nerves were iron, and he never once lost presence of mind. He was, in fact, scarcely conscious of danger in the excitement of the struggle, and when the storm lulled and he found himself still afloat he had the same sense of triumph that follows a successful personal encounter. He had, too, the same feeling of lassitude, and was about to allow himself five minutes' rest when all thought of self was banished by a sudden cry for help. In a moment he had braced himself for action, and glancing in the direction from which the sound came saw two figures—those of a man and a girl—clinging to the keel of an upturned boat. Seizing his oars he brought himself alongside with a few sharp strokes, and exhorted the man, who had been supporting his companion, to "hold on," while he lifted the girl, now almost exhausted, into the boat. At the sound of his voice the man uttered an exclamation of joyful surprise. "Heath," he cried, "are you man or angel? But anyhow save my sister. Don't mind me."

"What, you, Moncrieff!" exclaimed Heath. "All right, old fellow. Just stick like a limpet for another minute and I'll fish you both in somehow."

And "somehow" he managed it. But the *modus operandi* was so difficult and dangerous that even the doughty Heath heaved a sigh of relief when the feat was accomplished, and he was free to indulge the rare delight of the discovery that it was *she* whom he had rescued, and that she was *only* Moncrieff's sister.

Chapter III.

The next morning worthy Mrs. Jones, Heath's landlady, was considerably taken aback by the apparition of a well-dressed gentleman emerging from the obscurity of her modest parlour. Heath was going to visit the Moncrieffs, and although the period covered by his bet did not terminate for a day or two, he felt that not for ten times the amount at stake could he insult Lucy by

entering her presence in anything but the dress of civilisation. Fortunately, he had taken the precaution to bring some respectable clothes with him to Wyncon, and had left them in Mrs. Jones's charge when he suddenly went away. A warm welcome awaited him at Glan-y-mor, the Moncrieffs' country-house. Mrs. Moncrieff, who in spite of very delicate health, was a delightfully genial and vivacious old lady, almost embraced him in the fulness of her gratitude, Moncrieff declared that, apart from the rescue, he was a godsend in that social wilderness; Percy began to bargain for a sail in his boat; and Lucy replied with great gravity and appropriateness to his remarks upon the weather.

It is astonishing to what commonplaces the tongue will give utterance when the heart is throbbing with vital emotion. Who does not remember the instance of the German poet who, after cogitating through long winter nights what lofty and profound things he would say to Goethe if ever he saw him, yet when he found himself in the Olympian presence could only remark on the excellence of the Saxon plums. Love hath wondrous magnifying power, and this Lilliputian maid was to Heath not less than the colossal Goethe to Heine; and he talked to her as he would have talked to his maiden aunt, observing that it was a fine day, that yesterday's storm had laid the dust nicely, &c., &c. In the course, however, of the next week, during which they saw a great deal of each other, Heath became much more at his ease in Lucy's company, and ventured to discuss other topics besides the weather. One morning on reaching the Moncrieffs' house a little earlier than usual, in response to a mysterious summons, he found the household in that state of bustling excitement which usually precedes the departure of a picnic party. "All in your honour, Heath," explained Moncrieff, who had witnessed his approach by the impossibly perpendicular carriage-drive and rushed out to meet him. "It struck me yesterday that so unusual an event as the saving of our lives ought to receive fitting commemoration. You will be the hero of the occasion, and, by Jove! there are some uncommonly pretty girls coming to twine the laurels for you. I rode till I almost fell asleep in my saddle last night in my efforts to secure every beauty, whether native or imported, within a thirty miles circuit. There 's a Miss Davies Roberts, or a Miss Roberts Davies, I forget ——"

"Moncrieff," interrupted Heath at last, "the picnic is a brilliant idea so long as you don't make an occasion of it. But if you're going to victimise me, I'm off."

"Victimise you, indeed! That's what you call my attempts to 'heroise' you, is it? O base ingratitude of man! Will it always be the fate of self-denying friendship to have its motives misconstrued and its actions contemned? What more enviable lot than to be stuck on a pedestal for twenty lovely maidens to worship? But, after all, if you weren't born to the pedestal perhaps it's mistaken kindness to try to raise you to it. Now, I believe I am made of the stuff that heroes are made of. I should revel in the adulation of the crowd, especially of the crowd of pretty girls, as adorable as adoring."

Quite three-fourths of this speech was lost upon Heath, who had caught sight of Lucy in the doorway, and had neither ears nor eyes nor any sense whatever for anything or anybody else.

The scene of the picnic was a wood some fourteen miles distant, and on the arrival of the picnic party, after a drive of two hours through a charming country and an air which puts a sharper edge on appetite than hop bitters, everybody was ready to do full justice to the delightful *al fresco* meal awaiting them. Then, having satisfied the inner man, the party began to disperse in twos and threes, chiefly in twos, in search of flowers or wild raspberries, or entomological specimens, or on some other pretext more or less scientific for solitary intellectual amusement (among ancient barbarians and modern Philistines called, I believe, flirtation).

By a strange chance, Heath and Lucy found themselves together. For a time they chattered on indifferent subjects with the delightful sense of being in sympathy, which each gave to the other; but by degrees the conversation became more personal and constrained, until at last Heath brought matters to a climax by asking abruptly, "Do you believe in affinities?"

"Yes, as I believe in ghosts," replied Lucy, struggling to speak lightly. "I have never met with any, but I can't help thinking the words must stand for something; they sound so plausible."

"I firmly believe in affinities, and therefore I believe in love at first sight. If one may apply that sacred phrase to anything so commonplace as male friendships, I haven't a friend with whom I did not fall in love at first sight; and I feel sure that I should be just as quick to recognise the girl whom I shall make my wife, or remain single eternally."

"It takes two to make an affinity, doesn't it?" said Lucy, forcing a laugh. "If a girl is your affinity, you must be hers; and so there can be no such thing as unrequited love and blighted affections."

"Do you remember those lines of Mathew Arnold's?—

> 'Each on our own strict line we move
> And some find death ere they find love.
> So far apart their lives are thrown
> From the twin soul that halves their own!'

I believe in affinities, but I know it is only the highly favoured among mortals who have the luck to meet the 'twin soul that halves their own." But in every human breast there is implanted the faculty of loving, and such rare delight comes from the exercise of it, that if men do not meet the right person they love the wrong. Whence cometh the lifelong mortification of the flesh of unhappy marriage, or the lesser evil of 'blighted affections.'"

"I suppose since 'love is blind' people don't discover they have missed their affinities till one or other of these catastrophes occurs," surmised Lucy.

"The vulgar herd doesn't," said Heath with a solemn shake of the head; "but we who are deeply versed in the lore of love possess certain tests. 'Spontaneity' is one, 'Reciprocity' another. A man may fall violently in love with a girl to whom he is distinctly antipathetic. That fact ought to be a sign to him to desist; but, usually, it isn't. Usually it goads him on to redoubled effort, and perhaps, sooner or later, he awakes in her heart pity or gratitude, or respect, or some other very admirable emotion, which is accepted by both as a substitute for love. But it is a miserable substitute. I will never marry unless I can marry my affinity."

"Not even your affinity's first cousin," said Lucy, still determined to treat the matter as a joke. "I suppose there are degrees of affinity. People are so mixed up that it is seldom you meet anyone with whom you have everything or nothing in common."

"Oh, I meet people of the former kind every day of the week; but I shall be content if I have met once in my life someone with whom I have everything in common."

A pause followed, during which Lucy cast about wildly for some indifferent topic of conversation, and found her mind a sheer blank; and Heath broke off a twig of bramble and began to pull it to pieces with rather nervous fingers.

"Do you think what I have been saying is nonsense?" he continued at last.

"No," said Lucy hesitatingly.

"Then don't you think a man holding such convictions ought to have the courage of them? That when he falls in love he ought to make quite sure that he is not the victim of a delusion, because

the delusion may involve the girl whom he loves as well as himself?"

"Yes," said Lucy.

"And how can he do this except at the outset, when the girl's feelings towards him are, as it were, in their simplest terms, and there can be no pity, or gratitude, or respect masqueradingin her mind as love? Don't you agree with me?"

Once more Lucy uttered the momentous monosyllable.

"Then," said Heath, "will you let me tell you that I love you dearly; that I loved you at first sight; and that I believe what I feel for you is what a man only feels once in his life, for one woman? And will you tell me whether——— that you don't detest me—that I am not utterly odious in your eyes—that, perhaps, in years to come——— Lucy, can you, do you love me?"

Both were standing quite still now, and Lucy had covered her face with her hands as if to guard herself from the more dangerous eloquence of her lover's eyes. There was a moment's silence, and then she again took refuge in the all-sufficient monosyllable, but this time her "Yes" was so faint that Heath had to bend down his head to the level of her face, and gather it from her lips.

* * * * *

Half an hour afterwards Lucy exclaimed suddenly, "Why, there are Jim and Miss Davies Jones! And how foolish they both look. I *do* believe the silly boy has proposed to her at last."

"At last!" said Heath. "When would have been 'at first'?"

"Oh, *quite* six months ago. I am sadly afraid they are not affinities. But I must rejoin the others. It won't do for us both to shut ourselves up in our Seventh Heaven and neglect our earthly guests. And remember, Mr. Heath—Geoffrey I mean—if you don't behave to me like the merest acquaintance and keep quite calm if I choose to flirt with anybody else, I'll repudiate—that's the word, isn't it?—the whole transaction."

EPILOGUE.

Letter from Geoffrey Heath to his friend Stanley Cleaves.

"Glan-y-mor, August 9th, 1880.

"Dear old Chap,—Do you believe in affinities? I didn't till two or three days ago when the belief was 'borne in upon my mind,' as the Methodists say, just as I was roaming through sylvan solitudes with a nicer little girl than you ever saw, because

you haven't seen *her* yet. However, I hope soon to introduce you to my *fiancée*, for, of course, I acted in accordance with my convictions and am now an 'engaged man.' Men like you or Moncrieff—*blasé* exquisites, who estimate the creature by its toilette, and draw your life-breath from the heavy atmosphere of ball-rooms and salons—would ridicule the idea of finding your affinity in an out-of-the-world place like Wyncon. Therefore, the fact that I have done so proves, I think, better than any slavish adherence to the letter of our bet, that my tastes are perfectly unsophisticated and simple, and that I am only a 'society man' in society because adaption to their environment is one of the laws of the survival of the fittest. This being the case you are very welcome to the 'ponies,' for which I enclose a cheque, with a sense of triumph rather than of humiliation, having won incomparably—infinitely more than I have lost. Ah, how sorry I am for you, and the rest of the world that you cannot marry Lucy—isn't it a charmingly truly rural name? Her patronymic I shan't reveal till we meet. Neither shall I attempt a description of her personal appearance. Suffice it to say that she is fair and fairy-like. Short, you would probably call her, but what care I, so she *belong* to me! My 'engagement' will not permit me to write more.

"Yours ecstatically,

"GEOFFREY HEATH.

"N.B.—Example is better than precept. Isn't there some approximation to a Lucy in your parts?—*Verb. sap.*"

RECREATIVE EVENINGS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

One of the most absorbing questions of the day is the present position of our working and lower middle classes, and their ultimate fate; it is one which presses upon us at all points, and which we cannot evade, however anxious we may be to do so, and no one who happens to be walking through one of our busy throughfares at the hour when our factory hands are dismissed from their daily work can fail to be struck by their great numbers, and by their usually uncared-for appearance. They are hard workers—that goes without saying—many starting out at six in the morning, and not returning till seven in the evening, with an hour's interval for dinner. These are the average hours; sometimes they are much extended, and at certain times in the

year nearly all factories work up till nine or ten at night; still, most hands have their evenings free during the greater part of the year. Let us enquire how they occupy this time of recreation.

After having been confined in close workshops all day, it is little wonder that they are thankful to take a little exercise in the streets afterwards, and many of them spend all the evening lounging about the roads. Their homes are so uncomfortably small that the young men and women are glad to escape from their constraint, and find freedom in the open air, and though we can easily understand the reason why our streets are so crowded with noisy boys and girls in the evenings, it is hardly necessary to speak of the demoralising effects of this universal custom. The only place which seems to vie with the attractions of the streets is the music-hall, which is nearly always crowded to overflowing, not only with men and women, but also with mere boys and girls.

It was for these boys and girls that the Recreative Evening Schools, which have now become an established institution in Birmingham, were first started. Everyone recognises that the age between thirteen or fourteen and eighteen is the most critical for boys and girls of the working classes. They leave school and enter life for themselves; thrown on their own resources while they are still young enough to be very impressionable, they are at the mercy of the influences, good or bad, by which they are surrounded. Very much of the knowledge which was gained at the Board School is absolutely lost. I have tried to teach arithmetic to girls of seventeen or eighteen who have left school for five or six years, and have had to begin with the four simple rules.

The Recreative Evening Schools are, in Birmingham, a branch of the Kyrle Society, and are held for four evenings a week during the winter months (from October till the beginning of April). Owing to the conditions on which the School Board has allowed a small grant, the first hour is always devoted to "Code" subjects—*i.e.*, reading, writing, and arithmetic; the second hour is given to the specially recreative subjects — wood-carving, fretwork, embossed leather work, drawing, shorthand, ambulance, and calesthenics in the boys' department; dressmaking, cooking, millinery, drawing, basket-weaving, and drill, in that of the girls.

The Code subjects are also made as interesting as possible, the reading being generally taken from standard authors, such as Shakespeare, Scott, and Dickens.

The three centres for the Recreative Evenings in Birmingham—Alcock Street, Rea Street, and Nelson Street—are always well

attended, the boys showing a decided preference for hand-work, and especially for carving. Swedish surface, or chip carving is exceedingly popular, and recommends itself on account of the few implements required; a small chisel, a gouge, and a knife are all that are necessary, and it is wonderful to see what beautiful effects can be produced by a clever worker. Leather work is also very effective, and easily learnt, and both these arts are powerful instruments in moral and æsthetic culture. So many of our lads are employed on the merely mechanical production of some part of a machine which they never see completed, that they naturally can have no interest in their work, nor look with pride on a result which is due to their own thought and ingenuity. These minor arts teach them to take a satisfaction in the work of their hands, and to labour towards its highest development. The work they turn out is not soulless or without meaning; it has a spirit of its own, and expresses the mental and moral character of the artist.

One great difficulty which one has to deal with in teaching these boys is the idea that the primary end of the knowledge which they obtain in the Recreative Evening Schools is money-making; the commercial instinct seems to be inherent in them, and the first question they ask when they have completed anything is, "How much is it worth?" Now, until one can grasp the idea that work is beautiful for its own sake, apart from any monetary considerations, the result, however laboriously attained, will be lacking in spirituality. It is this which we are so anxious to impress upon our pupils; to love beautiful work for its own sake, and not to part with it for its money equivalent as soon as it is finished; but to keep it as a "joy for ever" in their own homes, just as we see that the Swedish peasantry decorate the commonest household utensils, even to the mangling boards, with exquisite carving. If there be any foundation for the belief that our outward surroundings have an influence on the formation of our characters, then it is surely most important that these surroundings should be beautiful; and if the ancient adornments of our cottage homes, monstrosities in china, and glaring representations of the Royal Family in impossible attitudes, are in the future replaced by really beautiful work made by the inhabitants, may we not hope for a corresponding elevation of character among a future generation of English people?

There can be no doubt that a great increase in deftness of hand and technical ability must result from this movement, which is spreading so rapidly, and yet so quietly, over the whole country.

Hitherto the tendency has been towards exclusively mental training, and we see its evil effects in the superabundance of clerks and others, who would probably have done much better if they had been brought up to a trade. If we could convince ourselves that physical labour is as honourable as mental, and that a man may be doing as great a service to his country in the carpenter's shop as in the merchant's office, we should not have this lamentable result of thousands of underpaid and starving clerks.

What a change there has been in the manner of regarding these matters since Chaucer wrote his Prologue to the Canterbury Tales! There, all sorts and conditions of men pass by us in procession, and one cannot fail to be struck by the preponderance of handicraftsmen among them — the weaver, the dyer, the upholsterer, the wife of Bath, who was such an adept at cloth-making, are all represented to us as comfortable well-to-do people of the middle-classes. It was these workers and their like who built up the greatness of England; it was the work of this class which we admire so much in our beautiful Gothic Cathedrals; it was done slowly and carefully, and it is therefore durable. Shall we suffer this beautiful hand-work to be altogether superseded by the products of machinery?

But this is a digression. *Revenons à nos moutons.*

Calesthenics are naturally exceedingly popular with the boys; the great difficulty is to find teachers. It is strange that so few of our athletic young men are willing to devote a little of their superfluous energy to their poorer brethern. One evening a week is all that is required; regular and systematic attendance, certainly, and this is what it is so difficult to obtain.

Millinery and dressmaking are very popular with the girls, and if the only effect of the Recreative Evenings were to improve the dress of our working women they would not have been in vain. To banish from our streets the faded rags of ordinary working days or the brilliant trash of Whit Monday and Bank Holidays would be a true benefit to the city in which we live, and the improvement can only be effected by the taste and good sense of gentlewomen acting on the crude notions of girls still young enough to be impressionable on these points.

The training of girls in cookery is also very important, for it is almost impossible to convert the adult working woman to the belief that stock made with bones is as nourishing as pigs' "trotters" or that lentils are an excellent substitute for meat. The average British matron is invulnerable on these points, and laughs to scorn the

idea of a lady who has never known want telling her how to economise. But girls may still be taught, and perhaps happier homes and better digestion may be the results of these classes to a future generation of the people.

I have reached the limit of my space, and might write much more; the above will, however, serve to indicate the kind of work which goes on at these Recreative Evenings, and may perhaps interest some of my readers in it.

C.

THE UNION.

March 29th.—MUSICAL EVENING.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. Miss K. M. DEANE read a paper on "The Music of European Nations."

In the course of her paper Miss DEANE referred to the peculiarity of the science of music, which has so many distinct branches; the science of sound being merely a department of physics, while a knowledge of the theory of music is not essential to its practice and execution, and many who know nothing of these departments possess the feeling and perception of it. Music is essentially cosmopolitan; it is a universal language, and has this advantage over poetry: that the ideas and emotions it represents are intelligible to all races. Thus, when we listen to Grieg's music, we can imagine that we are gazing on the snow-tipped peaks and silver fiords of Norway.

Song is the first development which music takes among savage nations, and then comes the invention of primitive wind and stringed instruments, such as the pipe and lyre. All these primitive instruments have attained their highest perfection in Europe, the home of music; and as the music of different nations may be considered as typical of the character of the people, nature of the country, and state of civilisation, the great variety of peoples on this continent affords us a wide diversity in music. England itself seems to have excelled more in song and in popular airs than in any other music, perhaps because of the changeableness of English weather, and the sweet transitoriness of the English spring. The old English ballads possess a quaintness and freshness which is entirely wanting in modern songs, and this is owing to the fact that the former express real feeling of which the latter are too often devoid. Scotch music consists entirely of songs and dances; very little of it has been preserved, but after the Revolution a great impetus was given to Jacobite poetry, and many songs were composed and adapted to the old tunes, which thus received fresh names.

Grieg is almost the only representative of Norwegian music who is known in England. His compositions are very typical, and seem to embody the spirit of the old Vikings; like those of Gade, the Danish composer, they echo the cadences of Scandinavian folk-songs. German music dates from the time of the Minnesingers, who sang of war, love, and patriotism; their airs passed down traditionally from one generation to another, and have been rearranged by modern composers, especially by Schubert. The musical energy of France seems to have taken an operatic direction; its present representative is Gounod, who has composed operas besides his sacred music. French popular music varies greatly: in the south it resembles the Troubadour

melodies, Burgundy affords us drinking songs, and in Normandy the ballads are chiefly on every-day topics. Spain also presents various groups of popular songs; in the Basque provinces they are of complicated time and cadence, in the south they are dreamily beautiful, while in the greater part of the country they have a lively dance rhythm. In Italy, lyric songs are subordinated to other branches; this country may be called the home of the opera, in which the dramatic part was formerly entirely subordinated to the vocal, but a reaction against this custom has been introduced in the present century by Wagner. Wales and Ireland, though not remarkable for their musical productions now, were in ancient times the homes of the famous minstrels, who wandered from place to place singing the victories of their tribes to the accompaniment of the harp. During the incessant wars in Ireland from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, music languished and decayed, though the Irish songs composed by Moore are among the most popular of our modern ballads.

Miss DEANE concluded by referring to the entirely new element which has lately been introduced into our music by the Polish and Hungarian melodies. They are remarkable for their peculiar rhythm, and the dances by Brahm and Behr are especially noticeable for the large number of syncopated notes which they contain. The paper was illustrated by the following programme :—

Piano Solo..... "Am Genfer See"..... *Bendel.*
Miss J. A. PEARSON.

Song ..... "Drink to me only with thine eyes" ..*Ben Jonson.*
Mr. W. MCCARDIE.

Song..... "The Bay of Biscay"..... ——
Mr. A. BROCKINGTON.

Song..... "In Silk Attire"..... ——
Miss S. MARRIS.

Song..... "Bonnie Dundee"..... *Scott.*
Mr. H. MCCARDIE.

Violin Solo..... "Concerto"..... *Rhode.*
Mr. WARMINGTON.

Piano Solo..... "Norwegian Brautzug"..... *Grieg.*
Miss E. F. LINDSAY.

Piano Solo { "Canzonetta"..... / "Good Night"..... } *Gade.*
Miss J. A. PEARSON.

Song..... "Auf dem Flügel des Gesangs"..... *Mendelssohn.*
Miss S. MARRIS.

Violin Solo..... "Salterella"..... *Papeni.*
Miss DONALDSON.

Song..... "Cari luoghi ov io passai"..... *Donizetti.*
Miss L. J. CHARLES.

Song..... { "Believe me, if all those endearing young charms" } ..... *Moore.* / ..... *Balfe.*
Mr. H. MCCARDIE.

Violin Solo..... "Légende"..... *Weniawski.*
Miss DONALDSON.

Piano Duet..... "Hungarian Dances"..... ——
Miss NEVINS and Miss E. F. LINDSAY.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. RAINSFORD, seconded by Mr. LEDSAM, B.A., and carried unanimously.

May 3rd.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN asked that a resolution enabling the Union Committee to dispose of the stage properties should be brought in.

Dr. W. R. JORDAN enquired how the proceeds from the sale of the stage would be appropriated.

Mr. HOWARD answered that they would be absorbed in the Union funds.

Mr. NEAL asked whether it was absolutely impossible that a dramatic performance should ever again take place in the College.

Mr. HOWARD replied that the opposition of the insurance company rendered it out of the question.

Mr. NEAL then proposed a resolution to the effect that a committee of five members of the Union should be appointed to consider the question of the sale of the stage.

Mr. BROWETT suggested that the insurance company might be induced to reduce the premium required.

Mr. HOWARD said that any dealing with the insurance company was beyond the province of the Union.

Mr. NEAL moved an amendment to his resolution, to the effect that a committee should be elected to find out whether it was impossible ever to hold another dramatic performance within the College, and to report to the Union.

This was seconded by Mr. SPROAT, and carried.

The following were then elected on the committee :—Miss CHARLES, and Messrs. DAIN, HOWARD, JORDAN, and NEAL.

In the absence of Mr. KINETON PARKES, who was to have read a paper on "The Writing of Novels and the Reading Thereof," Dr. JORDAN recited a poem entitled "The Infant's Revenge," which was warmly applauded.

Mr. NEAL then proposed that an impromptu debate, "That Impudence is of more value than Genius," should be held.

This was seconded by Mr. SPROAT, and carried unanimously.

Mr. NEAL opened the debate, and Dr. JORDAN replied in the negative.

There being no seconder on either side, Mr. NEAL withdrew the resolution; and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. PARROTT and seconded by Miss LINDSAY, to Dr. JORDAN and Mr. NEAL for their kindness in supplying the vacancy caused by Mr. PARKES's absence.

POESY CLUB.

A meeting of the Club was held on *Tuesday, March 19th*, when papers were read by Miss KEEP and Mr. A. W. HAINES.

Miss KEEP's paper was on the works of Locker. Born in 1821, he composed comparatively little till he was over thirty years of age, and at first with but small encouragment from the public. But, encouraged by Thackeray, he persevered and became a contributor to the *Times*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Punch*, *Blackwood*, *Good Words*, and other periodicals. In 1857 he published a collection of his poems under the title of "London Lyrics," which he added to in successive editions. In 1879 Mr. Locker

published an amusing little volume, "Patchwork," being extracts from his common-place book, enlivened with a few anecdotes. He has been called the "Du Maurier of Song," and his "London Lyrics" are as entertaining and instructive as that artist's "Pictures of London Society." Locker succeeded Praed, but his range is wider, he has more sympathy, and though not more brilliant he is more pleasing. As Mr. Hewlett says, Mr. Locker seems most deservedly characterised by two epithets—"tender and earnest," which could not be applied to Praed. He is never seen to more advantage than when writing to lowly people—viz., "The Old Government Clerk," "The Patient Little Seamstress," and "The Housemaid;" nothing could be more simple and pathetic than the last-named. The more vivid and realistic poems, such as "The Pilgrim of Pall Mall," "Rotten Row," "At Hurlingham," are taken direct from life, and reveal the influence of Praed to a greater degree than his more humorous and pathetic verses, such as those on "A Human Skull," "A Wish," and "The Jester's Moral." No one has written better verses to children; they contain all the wit and humour of his other poems, all their tenderness, without their sentimentality. "Mr. Locker's talent is so much in harmony with the spirit of the time, he lives so much in the age and belongs so much to what is best in society, that he may fairly be remembered and quoted hereafter as a representative of it." * He is especially remarkable for his careful versification and his thorough knowledge and application of the rules of verse. Miss Keep concluded by reading a letter which she had received from Mr. Locker.

Mr. HAINES then read a paper on Winthrop Mackworth Praed. He was eminently suited for his position in the literary world, possessing in a high degree the faculties of keen observation, ready wit, and facility of verse-making, essential to success as a society poet. He was born in London in June, 1802, in good social position, his father being of an old Cornish family. Losing his mother early, his years of childhood were tended by an elder sister, and as delicacy of constitution prevented him from engaging in boisterous pursuits, his leisure time from very early years was spent among books. In 1814 he was sent to Eton, and at once became known as a writer of ability; he was one of the editors and chief contributors to *The Etonian*, in which several of his best poems and essays appeared, and which ceased to exist on his leaving for Cambridge. At Cambridge he twice gained the medal for English verse, besides several other academic honours. On leaving Cambridge he spent some years as a tutor, and was then called to the bar, where he practised successfully for several years, after which he entered Parliament. Here he was known as a skilled debater and no mean statesman. In 1834–5 he held the office of secretary to the Board of Control. His legal and Parliamentary pursuits left him little leisure for literature; nevertheless he continued to write political squibs and social sketches. He died in 1839, being but thirty-seven years old. He left a widow and two daughters. In his poems we have only hints of the kindly nature of the writer. He was disinclined to write upon grave subjects, and the sunny humour of his verse draws off our attention from his depth of feeling.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. BAYLIS and seconded by Dr. ALLEN, to Miss KEEP and Mr. HAINES.

* Mr. Barnett Smith in the *Edinburgh Review*, October, 1874.

GERMAN SOCIETY.

By the kind permission of the Rev. E. F. M. MacCarthy, a most spirited performance of Schiller's "Neffe als Onkel" was given in the Five Ways Grammar School, on April 13th, by members of the Mason College Deutscher Verein. The play, which is an adaptation from the French of Picard, is rich in sparkling dialogue and amusing situations. It was a serious and bold undertaking for English amateurs to attempt, but the entire and well-deserved success which the actors obtained proved them fully equal to the task. The audience, numbering over three hundred people, and consisting largely of Germans, showed its appreciation by vigorous applause. The actors are to be heartily congratulated, no less upon the excellence of their acting, and the clearness of their enunciation than upon the picturesque effectiveness of their dresses and the tasteful arrangement of the scene.

Mr. F. S. Kannreuther, as the uncle, and Mr. Johnstone as the nephew, both acted with much spirit, though now and then inclined to become a little too boisterous. Mr. Rainsford made a good *Valcour*, and Mr. Bennett an amusing *Lormeuil*. Unqualified praise is due to Mr. E. Kannreuther's rendering of the part of *Champagne;* his acting as the drunken lackey was admirable.

Miss MacCarthy played the part of the young widow, *Frau von Mirville*, capitally, and acted with much grace. Miss Marris was well suited to the rôle of the gentle *Sophie*, and the part of *Frau von Dorsigny* was well sustained by Miss Brooks, who acted with much dignity. The other parts were played in a highly creditable manner.

The Society is much indebted to the Rev. E. F. M. MacCarthy for lending the room and stage, and to Mr. Boeddicker who, as stage-manager, rendered invaluable assistance.

The cast was as follows:—

Oberst von Dorsigny	Mr. F. S. Kannreuther.
Frau von Dorsigny	Miss Brooks.
Sophie, ihre Tochter	Miss N. Marris.
Franz von Dorsigny, ihr Neffe	Mr. D. V. Johnstone.
Frau von Mirville, ihre Nichte	Miss MacCarthy.
Lormeuil, Sophiens Bräutigam	Mr. R. A. Bennett.
Valcour, Freund des jungen Dorsigny	Mr. E. J. Rainsford.
Champagne, Bedienter des jungen Dorsigny	Mr. E. Kannreuther.
Notar	Mr. E. Mansell.
Erster Unterofficier	Mr. W. Brooks.
Zweiter Unterofficier	Mr. A. D. Zair.
Ein Postillon	Mr. A. D. Charles.
Jasmin, Diener in Dorsigny's House	Mr. Fernie.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—Annual Meeting, held *Wednesday, February 20th*, 1889.—Dr. TILDEN in the chair. Twenty-seven members present.—The report and balance-sheet having been read and adopted, the meeting proceeded to elect several new members, and also a committee and secretary for the year 1889. Dr. TILDEN then called on Dr. NICOL to read a paper on "Modern Photography." Dr. NICOL said that the subject might be considered under the heads of positive processes, negative processes, and photo-mechanical processes. Of these he would deal only with the two former. The latest negative process is the gelatino-bromide, in which the plate to receive the image is covered with a film of gelatine having silver bromide embedded in it. If the gelatine is spread on paper we have the conveniently-portable paper negative. To get rid of the defects caused by the granularity of the paper it is now contrived that the gelatine film shall, after development, be transferred to a plate of glass. Other very portable films are the Vergara and the Celluloid films introduced by Carbutt. As regards the latent image there are two theories—one physical, one chemical. According to the latter it is supposed that by the action of light the silver bromide is decomposed into a sub-bromide and bromine. In development the sub-bromide is resolved into bromide and free silver, which, being deposited, attracts other molecules of silver to itself as they are liberated. The bromide of the alkali used in development is formed, and the pyrogallol is resolved into acetic acid, carbon dioxide, and a brown substance. Dr. Nicol then described Cary Lee's experiments with the photo salts, substances which, having been exposed to light, behave, chemically, like silver bromide, and are developable. "Prolonged action of light on a sensitive film undoes what a shorter action has done, still longer action produces a positive image, a still longer a negative, and so on. This phenomenon is called photographic reversal. Among the latest positive processes is the gelatino-bromide paper, developable with ferrous oxalate, of which there is a transfer modification as in the similar negative process, the Platinotype, with its *printing-out* modification, and the iron processes, which yield blue prints. The chief use of the bromide paper is for making enlargements. In enlarging the prints lose in sharpness and brilliancy, but gain in the artistic qualities of softness and delicacy." Dr. Nicol illustrated his lecture by developing a reversal, and by an exhibit of enlargements and reversals.—The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Dr. NICOL for his interesting paper.

March 13th.—Seventen members present.—During tea Dr. TILDEN exhibited a simple form of polarisation by reflection. Dr. TILDEN in the chair.—Mr. ANDREWS was elected a member of the Society.—The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. SUDBOROUGH to read a paper on "Fermentation." The derivation of the word "fermentation," as given by Schutzenberger, is from the Latin *fervere*, to boil; and thus it evidently owes its origin to the phenomena observed when saccharine liquids undergo decomposition. Alcoholic fermentation was the first known, and it has been the one most studied. The manufacture of wine has been known from the beginning of historic times, but we owe our first conceptions of the peculiar nature of fermentation to Willis (1659) and Stähl (1679). Becker (1682) was the first to recognise the necessity of the sugar in wines which undergo fermentation, but to

Lavoisier belongs the honour of having demonstrated the relations which exist between sugar and the products of fermentation. Since the time of the latter many chemists have studied the phenomena of fermentation, and most important discoveries have been made by M. Pasteur. The ferment itself is an organised body. There are many kinds of ferments, each of which acts in a manner peculiar to itself, giving different products as results of their action.—Dr. TILDEN discussed the paper at some length, and congratulated Mr. Sudborough on having given the clearest account of a chemical process of practical importance he had ever heard at any of the meetings of the Society.—The discussion was continued by Mr. JONES, Mr. BARCLAY, and Mr. HAINES, the latter of whom prepared and exhibited several microscopical slides of fermentative organisms.—A vote of thanks was then accorded to Mr. SUDBOROUGH.—Before the close of the meeting Dr. NICOL showed a new form of flash light used by photographers.

March 27th, 1889.—Dr. TILDEN in the chair. Sixteen present.—Mr. TARN, B.Sc., read a paper on "The Determination of Atomic Weights." The paper was intended as a brief review of the general principles and theories underlying the methods of determining the atomic weights of the elements. The careful quantitative examination of various bodies and the comparison of the results obtained is the first step in the determination of atomic weights. Of the utmost value, however, is the law of gases enunciated by Avogadro in 1811, which assumed that the number of particles into which a substance divides itself on passing into the gaseous condition is, without exception, the same for every gas under similar conditions of temperature and pressure. This hypothesis has enabled the chemist to decide the maximum value which can be assigned to the atom of any element. Organic compounds have been of great service in connection with the application of this law, because many metals which form no volatile inorganic compounds combine with organic radicles, giving compounds which are volatile. Another important guide is the application of the law of Dulong and Petit: it serves as a guide in fixing the maximum value of the atomic weights in the case of elements which form no volatile compounds, but it is only admissible where a large number of compounds of the same element can be experimented upon. Lastly, the author referred to Mendelejeff's Periodic Law, and concluded by stating that the result obtained by the application of any individual law is insufficient evidence to determine the atomic weight of an element; the inference can only be drawn from the results obtained by the application of all the laws, which are mere stepping-stones for those who are engaged in the exploration of nature. The chemist is guided in his researches by the instinct which tells him that whatever is regular and whatever is harmonious is also true.

The paper was discussed by Dr. TILDEN and Mr. BARCLAY, B.Sc.; and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. TARN.

THE CYCLISTS' CLUB.

Every cyclist who is an anxious observer of the weather—and what cyclist is not?—must confess that this year, at least, however much Father Jupiter Pluvius may rule it on the first five days of the week, King Sol is in the ascendancy on Saturday, the cyclists' fête-day. The chief result of this

satisfactory arrangement is that already, at the beginning of the season, when the majority of clubs are just beginning to shake off their winter lethargy, the Mason College Cyclists' Club is able to record four successful excursions.

As the Editor is kind enough to allow me a little extra space in the pages of our *Magazine*, perhaps I may venture, before reporting the above-mentioned four excursions, to say a few words upon the Cycling Club in general, its origin, its aim, and its *modus operandi*.

The present season, which dawns so auspiciously upon the M. C. C. C., is its third since its reorganisation in 1886. In that year the desire of the cycling students to obtain accommodation for their machines in or near the College found expression in a petition to the Council, and, upon the rejection of that petition, in the re-formation of the Cyclists' Club.

Our Club owes much of its vitality, its energy, and its hitherto successful career, to the firm basis upon which it was placed and the vigorous start given to it by its first captain, Mr. JAMES NEAL. It has never suspended operations, never felt the awful incubus of debt, and at its last committee meeting it elected a score or so of new members.

Speaking roughly, cyclists may be divided into two classes—(1) cyclists whose aim is to go as quickly as possible, get as warm as possible, see as little as possible; (2) cyclists whose aim is a comfortable pace, a bodily temperature as near to the normal as possible, and as good a view of the surrounding country as possible.

I am glad to say that the majority of our cyclists belong to the more judicious class, though the needs of both classes may be met in our Club.

No one knows better than the cyclist the lovely bits of Warwickshire scenery lying within a radius of fifteen to twenty miles of "Squirt Square;" the shady lanes where the interlacing arms of the trees form a canopy overhead; the views of the distant hills, shrouded in the purple haze of a summer afternoon; the glorious mosaic of green field, rich brown cultivated soil, and sky-reflecting water. I know of no more effective panacea for the tired brain, after a week of hard study in the very heart and rush of the city, than three or four hours spent in the hush of the hills. I know of no time more wisely spent or farther removed from wasted time than those few idle hours snatched from the close of the busy bustling week.

The M.C.C.C. has been favoured with not a little good-natured pleasantry, for reasons to be mentioned immediately; but we, its members, call to mind that even notoriety has its use occasionally, by bringing into prominence what might otherwise be overlooked. It has been said that, in M.C.C.C. language, the definition of a cycle is, "any means of progression from one spot to another;" moreover, that the walking section of the club usually meet in a railway station, &c., &c. This brings me to an important departure made by the club last season, in the recognition of a pedestrian section.

The reasons for, and advantages of, our combined walking and cycling parties are not far to seek. There are numerous students of the College who do not chance to possess a machine, who for various reasons cannot avail themselves of the diversions of tennis, football, or cricket, but who *can* walk, and who are capable of adding largely to the enjoyment of any party to which they may attach themselves. Such students are invited to join the walking section of the M.C.C.C.

How frequently a member of a cycling club is prevented from attending his club run, perhaps by some slight accident which has happened to his machines, or by the irresistible request by some particular friend for the loan of it. Such a cyclist, if he be a member of the M.C.C.C., has simply to take his place on this particular occasion among the pedestrians, and improve his acquaintance of a new circle of fellow-students.

The Cyclists' Club offers one of the most valuable opportunities for furthering the acquaintance between Professors and students, and one obtains quite a different aspect of the hero of the lecture theatre when one sees him on wheels, and an aspect no whit less imposing. Three of our Professors are active cyclists, while a fourth occasionally meets the club at is destination, and now we are favoured with the present of some of the Demonstrators as well.

The Annual Tea at the Ring o' Bells, on Founder's Day, is rapidly becoming a Mason College Institution, and bids fair to succeed better than a far more ambitious scheme which was mooted two years ago. In accordance with this custom, the first run of the present season took place on February 23rd, to Hampton-in-Arden. A party of cyclists started in the morning for Hampton via Meriden, and a party of pedestrians followed in the afternoon. Though so early in the year the weather was all that could be desired, the only hitch in the day's arrangements being the inability, through some mistake, of the two sections of the Club to effect a meeting. However, as both sections professed to have received much enjoyment, we console ourselves by concluding that had we met, the effect might not have been a double quality of enjoyment, but, as John Stuart Mill would put it, a heteropathic effect, where the joint effect of two or more causes is not of the same kind with the separate effects, but a totally new effect (in our case perhaps irritation), is developed by their combination.

On *April 21st* a party of ten members visited Solihull, where, after watching for some time a football match, Mason College *v.* Solihull Grammar School—which, by the way, Masons' won by six goals to one—the club proceeded to the church, where one of its musical members gave an organ recital. Upon reaching Birmingham in the evening the announcement that there had been heavy rain at home was received with much surprise, as the Club had enjoyed exceptionally fine weather.

On *April 28th* the run to Coleshill was attended by nine cyclists and eight pedestrians. From the summit of the Church Tower, (where the Club was photographed by a camera down below), a very fine view was obtained; and a pleasant walk across the fields, and in the evening another through Coleshill Park to Castle Bromwich for the one detachment, and an equally pleasant ride for the other, put an end to the day's proceedings.

May 5th was the occasion of an exceeding enjoyable excursion. The storm appeared to be keeping off purposely, and the day might fairly be hailed as the first real return of spring. Rednall Hill, the Lickey, was our destination, fourteen reaching it on cycles, twelve on foot. After a much-appreciated tea in the kitchen of a small farmhouse, the landlady of which appeared uncomfortably anxious to minister to our comfort, we adjourned (the majority on foot, but more than one on horseback) to the Lickey Monument, and feasted our eyes on the distant ranges of Malvern, Clee, and

Bredon, and here and there the silvery gleam of the Severn ; then walking to a spur of the hill we turned our gaze upon what we may almost call the Vale of Birmingham, since the various and characteristic monument, chimney-stacks, and church towers of our beloved city bounded the horizon. At seven o'clock we divided into our customary two sections, and turned our backs on the Lickey Hills and the bilberry bushes.

Mason College possesses a Tennis Club and a Cyclists' Club. May I be allowed to urge upon every student who believes in the maxim, *Mens sana in corpore sano*, the desirability, nay, the duty, of joining one or other of our two athletic societies ?

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

This is the first opportunity we have had of welcoming a new contemporary, *The Comus*, and we gladly seize it. There is an originality and absence of routine about this publication which distinguish it from most *new* journals. We have here bright and interesting notes on matters literary, dramatic, artistic, and musical, together with readable verses, interesting papers, and well-executed illustrations. Vol. I., No. 6 (April), contains, as the leading items of an excellent number, an article on "The Tendencies of Modern Art ;" "The Doom of Small Towns," written rather in the *laudator temporis acti* spirit ; an uncanny story, "The Red Clubs ;" and, under the heading "New Lights in Literature," a sketch of Miss Olive Schreiner, the writer of "The Story of an African Farm."

The Owens College Magazine is well up to the mark. "Auf die Mensur!" is a description of German students' duelling. We wonder how long these insane exhibitions are to be allowed to take place. We have no wish to discourage "Chiel" from the writing of verse, but will allow ourselves to express the hope that he may be induced to revise before publication.

The Central Literary Magazine for April is a very full number. The paper on "Shelley's Lyrics" is perhaps the pick of the contributions. "John Bright," "Imperial Federation," "Shakespeare in our Daily Life," and "Broadway, Worcestershire," are all interesting. "Scientific Religion," while enlisting our sympathy with the author in his endeavour to show that it is possible to arrive at a knowledge of religious truth by a process perfectly analagous to that of scientific induction, fails to convince us that he is likely to succeed. Those of the contributions written in metrical form are of less than average merit.

The best thing in the *Girton Review* is the account of the Inter-Collegiate Debate with Newnham, when the subject of debate was the very suggestive one, "That people with one-sided views only are necessary for the establishment of any great reform."

The University College of Wales Magazine prints a paper on Alcohol by Dr. Snape, which any wine-bibber reading would probably straightway slay himself to save future trouble. There is also a poem in the metre and otherwise strongly reminiscent of "Locksley Hall," but with a dash, too, of the

"Psalm of Life" about it. After a good deal of verbal writhing the author winds up, whether to his own satisfaction or not we cannot tell—

"Sense is nought and Wisdom faileth: souls with soul alone converse,
So I wander through the shadows to the real universe."

The King Edward's School Chronicle publishes in interesting account of Mr. T. A. Trollope's experiences as an assistant master in the School "fifty years ago."

The Eagle (Bedford Modern School) has a full account of the Old Boys' Dinner, which was presided over by Professor HILLHOUSE. "Spring" is a delightful and seasonable poem. We quote—

"O the Spring is in the trees,
In the meadows, on the leas;
Hark! and is not that a sneeze
That I hear?
Sneezes many, coughs galore,
Eyes and noses red and sore,
Are the signs most to the fore,
So I fear
That sweet Spring is at the door
Of the year.

We are also received *Our Magazine*, *The Victoria College Magazine* (Belfast), *The Marlburian*, *The School Magazine* (Uppingham) (2), *Clewer House School Magazine* (2), and *Laurel Leaves*.

COLLEGE NOTES.

We greatly regret to announce the resignation by Professor BENTON of the Chair of Mining, which he has held since 1885, in consequence of his acceptance of an important mining engagement in New South Wales.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Professor LAPWORTH has been appointed Examiner in Geology to the University of London.

May we suggest that, in future, speakers at impromptu debates be responsible for reporting their own speeches, as the already overworked Editorial Board finds it impossible to do justice to the vast amount of eloquence displayed on these occasions?

We trust that a very large number of Students will take advantage of the exceptional opportunity offered by the Poesy Club for a visit to Cambridge on June 1st.

The excursion to Oxford last year was such a brilliant success that it augurs well for the visit to the sister University, and if the weather is equally favourable the expedition will doubtless be a most enjoyable one.

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published on June 28th. All Contributions, Reports of Societies, etc., should reach the Editor on or before June 17th.

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CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

JULY, 1889.

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3 W.—Meeting of Council.
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5 F.—Summer Term Ends.
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8 M.—Matric. Pass List Publ. Int. Med. Exam.
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17 W.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
18 Th.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
19 F.—Int. Arts Hons. *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
20 S.— *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
21 **S.**—
22 M.—Int. Arts Hons. *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
23 Tu.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
24 W.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
25 Th.—Int. Arts and Int. Science Hons. *Id.* ———
26 F.—Int. Science and Prel. Science Hons. Int. Med. Exam.
27 S.—*Id.* ——— [Int. Med. Hons.
28 **S.**—
29 M.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
30 Tu.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ———
31 W.—*Id.* ——— *Id.* ———

Aug.

1 Th.—Int. Med. Exam.
2 F.—
3 S.—
4 **S.**—
5 M.—
6 Tu.—Int. Med. Pass List Published.
7 W.—Int. Arts, Int. Science and Prel. Science Pass Lists Publ.
8 Th.—
9 F.—

Mason College Magazine.

(Conducted by Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

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CALENDAR.

July 5th.—Summer Term ends.
October 2nd.—Autumn Term begins.

EDITORIAL.

The close of another session and of another volume of the *Magazine* is perhaps the most fitting opportunity to say a few words directly to our readers. The progress of the *Magazine* throughout the past year has been a quiet, and, we hope, a satisfactory one. One important change has been made—that by which the *Magazine* year has been altered to coincide with the College year. We would particularly impress this fact upon our subscribers, so that they may not be unpleasantly surprised when they are asked for their subscriptions in October, instead of in January, as heretofore.

While thanking our readers for their support in the past, there is one fact which all those who are immediately concerned with the welfare of the *Magazine* must deeply regret—namely, that the *esprit de corps* so prominent in other departments of College life is lamentably absent from the *Magazine* affairs. Judging from the paucity of contributions, we should say that the literary talent of Mason College is almost *nil:* this conclusion is unavoidable, and has only been sorrowfully reached after a year's patient waiting for that which cometh not. Former students have done well, and one of our Professors has also helped us; but only one present student, outside the Editorial Board, has sent a contribution. If this state of things is not due to the absence of literary talent, the only alternative conclusion is that everyone is too busy to spend his or her time in work which has no apparent result. But results which are apparent are not always the most substantial, and we are convinced that a literary style and clearness of expression, which are so essential a part of education, cannot be better acquired than by the setting down of one's thoughts in a form which will be

subject to the kindly criticism of a circle of readers, which, narrow as it may be, is yet large enough to be of immense aid to those who are not too timid or too proud to submit themselves to its judgment.

With these parting words we again retire into private life, trusting that the next Editor will be positively overwhelmed with articles on every subject under the sun, so that, as in the palmy days of yore, a Sub-Editor will be necessary to share the labours of the production of the *The Mason College Magazine.*

DAVID COX AND LANDSCAPE PAINTING.

It is interesting at the present time, when Landscape Art in England is at so high a level, to give some consideration to one who may justly be said to have shared the honours of the revival of English painting in this direction with Turner. Landscape Art as taught in the schools in Cox's time was a very different thing from the art of Cecil Lawson and Leader. We have all groaned at the miserable waste of space at the National Gallery, where yards and yards of wall are covered with the products of the "Old Masters" of English Landscape. Portrait and landscape are the two branches of plastic art in which England especially excels, but among older specimens there are but few landscapes which deserve either the name or the preservation. Of portraits, however, we are justly proud, for though in some respects we may have improved on Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lely, and the rest, yet our advance has not been so rapid as to make us glance pityingly at our portraits, as we do at some of our landscapes. Leaving out of the present paper the question of portraits, however, and looking only at landscape, what a development there has been since the beginning of the century! Landscape now holds as high a place in English art, and a far nobler one, than the nude in French. It is certainly not the be-all and end-all of our art, but it is one of its most successful branches. The President of the Royal Academy is not a landscape painter, but many of the Royal Academicians are, if this at all intimates what I wish to imply—viz., that many of our fashionable painters are painters of landscape. It is not to these, however, that we would turn for the future, but rather to those younger men of the Impressionist and Naturalistic Schools, who are enthusiastic in Nature's cause, and delight in painting her various moods and phases. I cannot now enter into details concerning what has been done or what is being done by these

men, but their advent is due to the slow working of effects of which Turner and Cox were the cause. In order to thoroughly understand the movement it becomes necessary to enquire what were the factors, and what the environment, which contributed to bring about the present state of things; and this would involve a review of the upheaval in life, and letters, and art which took place at the close of the last century and at the commencement of the present. In life France suffered greatly, but the benefits derived were great, if only they had been properly utilised. The upheaval was, of course, felt in England, but it was in the neighbouring country across the Channel that the eruption actually occurred. In England the changes were more noticeable in literature and art; and primarily in literature. Cowper feebly departed from the old classicism of the 18th century, but this good, regular, and, for the most part, *goody* work was rudely rejected when Burns and Scott broke across the murky sky with their romantic element like meteors. Then followed Coleridge, Southey, Shelley, Keats, and Byron, and the whole world of letters received a great but wholesome shock. Old rules were disregarded; customs previously honoured only because they were ancient, were ridiculed; and the old form and order in poetry and prose were utterly annihilated. Poets began to write as they felt, not as they were taught. They spoke their inmost thoughts in fiery, untrammelled language; the old models lay unheeded; and all this indicated—what? The return to Nature which is the characteristic of our time. This is the tendency of the 19th century. Darwin and Herbert Spencer have proved it in Science and Philosophy, our poets have proved it in Literature, and our painters have proved it in Art. As we are now concerned specially with the aspect of this tendency as regards art, it may not be amiss to glance briefly at the various efforts which were made in this direction.

Life first became disturbed, then followed Letters, and last we find Art struggling for a *raison d' être*. Tentative efforts were made by Mulready, Landseer, and their contemporaries, but the first organised attempt towards a return to nature was made by Rossetti, Millais, and Holman Hunt. They formed themselves into the body known as the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; so called because they found, in the work of the artists immediately prior to Raphael's time, indications of a study of nature which were lacking in the work of succeeding painters. The efforts of the P. R. B. were more or less successful, but it was more so in other directions than in landscape. They are now supple-

mented by the work of the Naturalistic School, which goes even further, and in which there are many admirable landscape painters. Their aims are admirably set forth in a book by Mr. Francis Bate, called "The Naturalistic School of Painting." This brings us to the present day as far as organised attempts at reform are concerned. There are other painters who, like Cox, loved nature and worked solitary and alone, striving to interpret all her moods upon their canvases. In France there were Bastien Le Page and glorious Millet; in England we find, each working steadily in his own way, but to one end—Turner, with his sublime pictures; Cox, with his quiet, gentle scenes of English and Welsh life; and Cecil Lawson, with his canvas full of poetry and harmony. And among all these and others what is Cox's place? Cox, the self-taught artist, the painter untrammelled by the methods of schools, free to interpret the soul of nature as his own soul bade him—where must we place him in the long roll of landscape painters. First after Turner? Probably, if the verdict of all artists and critics could be taken, this would be the place. There, second in all English Landscape Art, we leave him, thankful that one so altruistic in his personal concerns should have so powerfully manifested his individuality, and impressed an indelible mark upon English Art that it can never lose.

KINETON PARKES.

A DAY AT CAMBRIDGE.

New Street Station presented an unwontedly animated appearance at the early hour of 6.45 a.m. on Saturday, June 1st; so much so that a porter accosted one of the throng with the inquiry, "Beg pardon, Miss, but would you tell me what's on at Cambridge?" It was explained to him that a party of Mason College students and their friends were simply about to make an expedition to Cambridge to see the place itself, without requiring further attractions in the way of fêtes or races. The success of the excursion to Oxford, organised last year by the Poesy Club, emboldened the Committee to arrange one this year to Cambridge. At seven o'clock the start was made, and the train sped swiftly beyond the dreary, monotonous, smoky suburbs of the big city, and out into the fresh morning air and fresh green country, arrayed in its flower-besprinkled robes of young and tender green. The railway company made a special effort, and the journey was accomplished in about three hours, whereas the ordinary traveller

from Birmingham to Cambridge has to make up his mind to a good five hours in the train. Arrived at Cambridge Station, tram-cars were in readiness to convey our party to within a few yards of the Lion Hotel in Petty Cury, whence, after coffee, we sallied forth, under Dr. Allen's guidance, to view the town. Across Market Hill, covered with the booths of Saturday's market, we trooped; up King's Parade, stopping a moment to take in the splendid group formed by the screen of King's Quadrangle, the University Library, and the Senate House; then up Trumpington Street, past the Pitt Press, with its grey stone tower; Pembroke College, of whose ivied quadrangle a pretty peep may be caught in passing; and past the noble Greek façade of the Fitzwilliam Museum, to Addenbrooke's Hospital. Turning back upon our steps, we passed into Queen's College, so called from its foundress, Margaret of Anjou, consort of Henry VI. The inner court is surrounded by cloisters, whose blackened red bricks, overgrown with ivy, which in some places falls in a green veil quite over the arched openings, give an impression of hoary antiquity, and of the living continuity of the present with the past, which is one of the greatest charms of the many charms of an ancient University. Another feeling which Cambridge awakens most strongly is that of peace. The rush, noise, friction, hurry of life are left behind: here is room and time for thought and growth. But *we* must not be left behind in Queen Margaret's cloistered court to pursue such reflections as these, and we hurry to rejoin the others, who have already crossed the timber bridge and are pursuing their way across the corner of fen-land poetically called Sheep's Green into the famous "Backs of the Colleges."

Queen's, King's, Clare, Trinity, and St. John's Colleges are built along the river, which flows through their grounds, so that each is approached from the back by a bridge; and to stand on one of these and look up and down at these graceful bridges, with their reflections in the calm, almost currentless, water below is one of the pleasures of which a resident in Cambridge can never tire. Between the college grounds and the road along "the Backs" is a wide strip of green sward set with a somewhat irregular double avenue of old nobly-proportioned elms, and on the farther side of the road from the colleges are Fellows' gardens, so that from a bower of green we catch glimpses of the river and the stately piles of the colleges.

The squareness of outline of King's College Chapel, unrelieved save by high turrets at the corners, is somewhat severe, viewed from

the outside; within, the impression is of majesty on the whole, and beauty in the details. The length is broken by a dark oak screen forming a loft for the organ, which is surmounted by two carved figures of winged angels. robed in beautiful drapery and blowing golden trumpets. But the screen does not rise high enough to shut out the full vista of the roof, whose fan vaultings, carved in stone, form the very loveliest roof which man has ever devised. In the spaces between the windows ornaments of roses, portcullises, crowns, fleurs de lis, antelopes, greyhounds, dragons, remind the gazer of the royal builders, Henry VI. and VII. We have to hasten on without examining the beautiful painted windows, twelve on each side, each containing four pictures, and passing up a narrow lane we find ourselves at the University Library. Here the party broke up, some proceeding to Trinity College, and a small detachment only going into the Library.

Room after room, room after room, piled with books from floor to ceiling, between the cases passages only a few feet wide; one room, apparently a small one, we are told contains thirty thousand novels. A couch alone is wanting, and Charles Lamb might have realised here his ideal Paradise. The store-rooms, where is piled "the rubbish," we do not see; but since by the the Copyright Act the Library is entitled to a copy of every work—down to school primers and Bradshaw's railway guides—published in the United Kingdom, we infer that they must be extensive. Treasures are preserved in glass cases. Among these one of the greatest is the "Codex Bezæ," a MS., supposed to be of the sixth century, of the Gospels, the Catholic Epistles, and the Acts of the Apostles, written in Greek and Latin on opposite pages, and found in a monastery at Lyons in 1581 by Theodore Beza. In another case is one of the very first batch of books printed in England, "The Book of Chess," which issued from Caxton's press in 1474. No artificial light is allowed in this treasure-house for fear of fire; it closes before dusk all the year round.

Before we are ready to leave, Dr. Allen has come back for us from the contingent he has been "personally conducting" into the dining-hall of Trinity, and takes us through the Gates of Wisdom and of Honour, leaving out the Gate of Humility, through which alone, according to the parable, can the former be entered, to rejoin the others in the Great Court of Trinity. Through the beautiful cloisters and piazza of Nevile's Court we proceed to Trinity Library, which rejoices in the possession of some of the most precious things in the University—the first rough notes, in Milton's own

handwriting, of his "Paradise Lost;" Byron's first childish letter, Newton's telescope, the cast taken after his death of Newton's face, and a collection of rare and ancient manuscripts and earliest printed books.

Down the beautiful avenue of limes, once more across the Cam, then over a light iron bridge spanning a tributary stream, we pass into the grounds of St. John's College, and once more pause in delighted admiration to view the trees, the river, the blue sky, the stately buildings, all spotless and stainless in the clear, pellucid atmosphere. The "Bridge of Sighs" breathes no melancholy over our spirits as we pass through its covered way on our road to the Library, a good specimen of a really ancient college library, containing its own store of rare and curious manuscripts and books, chief among the latter a copy, on vellum, of Cranmer's "Great Bible, of 1539, with wood covers, bound and clasped with wrought iron. The combination-room is 93 feet long, rather low, with a beautiful traceried ceiling, and panels of woodwork. It contains two pictures of the Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII., and benefactress of the College, a lean lady, in nun's garb, of corpse-like countenance, with folded hands, and an expression of sour piety upon her features. The dining-hall is lined with pictures of men of note connected with the College, among the most interesting is one, in Arab dress, of the late Professor Palmer, who met so sad a fate during the Egyptian expedition. The Chapel of St. John's is quite modern, completed in 1869, and is profusely decorated. Whereas in King's College Chapel a sense of dignity and grandeur awes the spirit, in St. John's the prevailing impression is of warmth and colour, conveyed by the painted roof, the windows, and especially by the many coloured pillars of various marbles.

By the time we have seen all this we are not sorry to hear that dinner is now the next item on the programme, and we make our way up Trinity Street, noticing, as we pass, Trinity Great Gate, with its grotesque figure of the founder, Henry VIII., past Great St. Mary's, the University Church, and so back to our hotel, quite ready to discuss the lamb and gooseberry pie, the yards of Cambridge butter, and various other viands provided for our well-earned refreshment.

Before three o'clock we were ready to start again. Now the party broke up into detachments, some to go over the museums and laboratories, some to see various other of the interesting

sights of Cambridge, a large band to visit Newnham, while others again betook themselves to the luxurious idleness of boating. After seeing the Cambridge laboratories, a Mason College student has certainly no cause to be ashamed of his own. The chief improvement seemed to be the absence of Birmingham atmosphere; for that reason everything appeared much cleaner, and the microscopical rooms much better adapted for their purpose. The chemical laboratories certainly did not, in our judgment, come up to our own, but the students must be either much tidier or much less industrious, as it appeared that no red-hot crucible nor drop of $H_2S'O_4$ had ever touched the fair expanse of table. One great advantage, however, was a staircase leading out on the roof, so that a student who had inhaled a little too much H_2S or CS_2 might retire thither and blow off the evil effects. In the zoological laboratory some of our party were pleased and gratified to note the familiar "Marshall and Hurst" open at a well-known diagram, and suggested offering assistance in the dissection of a snail. Further on, these same students were so enchanted with the zoological models, and with the museum, that they were nearly left behind and lost. In the physiological department, Dr. Allen drew special attention to an ingenious contrivance for the graphic representation of muscular contraction.

At Newnham the Principal had kindly deputed some of the students to show the visitors the chief things of interest. We first entered Sidgwick Hall, which communicates by a covered passage with the newest of the three houses, Clough Hall, while on the other side of the way is the original or "Old Hall." The halls are of red brick, built in what is known as the "Queen Anne" style, and stand in a charming garden, with ample facilities for tennis and fives. Attached to the Old Hall are a gymnasium, a charming library, and a chemical laboratory. The great feature of Clough Hall is the dining-hall, with a gallery at one end and a daïs at the other, so that the Principal's table is literally "the high table." In this hall all the students meet for dancing once a week, after dinner; the meetings of the Debating Society are also held in it. A few of the students' rooms were shown us as types; very cosy, pretty little rooms they are, some containing a piano, all with books, pictures, and flowers, and showing in their arrangement and decoration the individuality of the owner. With its happy mixture of work and recreation, its opportunities for solitude and for society, its many interests and beautiful surroundings, the life of a Newnham student must be a very happy one.

At five o'clock most of us attended the service at King's College Chapel, after which the organist, Dr. Mann, kindly played a special voluntary for the benefit of the visitors from Birmingham. Not much time remained between the conclusion of tea and the start for the station. At half-past eleven the train steamed into New Street, and one of the very pleasantest days ever spent had come to an end. Nothing remained but to wish each other "Good night,' and (as Pepys says) "so home to bed."

A SCIENTIFIC HOLIDAY.

DEDICATED TO THE M. C. C. C.

"'Twas brillig," and, bent on a scientifico-cyclic errand, we assembled at the Mermaid, considering this, the college coat-of-arms, to be the most appropriate object of our first study. The mermaid, as every school-boy knows, is a pseudo-human being with a fish's tail; we found it here portrayed by a bunch of grapes, presumably of marine origin.

Our attention was next directed to cyclic problems, as, for example, if the road consist of three ruts and four ridges, and the machine be so constructed as to take one of each at the same time, how can the rider secure a minimum of discomfort for self and machine?

The next scientific object was at the end of the journey, where we were called upon to examine a representation of Elephantus castellatus, to all appearance a huge black animal bearing on its dorsal side a white protuberance.

After a truly rural repast, some of the company adjourned to the church, and some to the schoolroom, were they were entertained by an impromptu on the harmonium, and a diagrammatic lecture on the sacred bird of Rome and its barnyard companion. The better half of the party having decided to stay till Monday evening to prosecute further scientific investigations, the others departed with a promise to send an extra trunk for the elephant's Sunday use. Evening offered great facilities for studying Homo rusticus, who gathers with others of his kind round Elephantus at that time. His presence was first made known to us by low growls and clinking sounds, which resolved later into sweet melodies interspersed with such noises as proceed from the back rows of the Union.

On retiring to rest we opened the window to encourage zoological specimens, and at 12.45 were rewarded by hearing a ghostly whirring noise, first near the roof, and gradually drawing nearer. Animated by true scientific ardour, we lighted up, and the

chase began. Implements of all kinds were snatched up, the bat became a ball, and by a well-directed blow was at last secured. Triumphant, though weary, the victors betook themselves again to rest, but Morpheus declined to receive them. The place was awake with the sweet songs of Frumenti crakus, Gallus domesticus, and Cuculus cantans (of which latter genus we afterwards discovered two other specimens—one botanical, the other insectivorous.)

Sunday dawned damp and dreary, and the morning was devoted to the study of the animals of the canal, of which Homo canalis is the most interesting. In order to better observe their habits we located ourselves under a bridge, where we caught several fine specimens; also, by means of an amateur concert, we investigated the transverse vibrations of reeds, as exemplified by grasses. On Sunday afternoon an invitation was received from several specimens of Feminæ rusticæ to accompany them in an inspection of an ancient moated grange; this was accepted joyfully, as affording opportunities of a new study. We found these creatures very similar to the species better known to us, but their powers of discrimination were not great. In the hall one of them referred to a marble figure as the "busk" of the lady of the house, and to a painting of an obviously Eastern scene as a representation of the house in olden times. The best was reserved till last. A tapestried chamber was pointed out as the ghost's room, and on the floor of dark oak were deep stains. which years have failed to obliterate. This creature would have afforded us a unique study, but unfortunately we could not wait until the hour of its appearance.

Monday morning was devoted to physics. Our first attention was given to the isochronous oscillations of swings, and to the determination of the C.G. of nine spindle-shaped blocks of wood, which necessitated a series of experiments upon the common pump. We then spent some time in the practical solution of the problem: Given four unequal masses, traversing with various velocities and directions a square area, how, when, and where will any two impinge?

On our way home, invigorated and refreshed, we determined to recommend our friends, "of lectures weary, and by books distraught," to join the M.C.C.C. in its next run:

One trial is all we ask;
It recommends itself.

SCIENTO-CYCLIST.
CYCLO-SCIENTIST.

THE UNION.

May 17th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. The evening was devoted to a literary competition, conducted by Mrs. HOUGHTON and Miss HADLEY, the subject being the respective merits of the poetry of Alfred Austin and Lewis Morris.

Mrs. HOUGHTON first gave a biographical account of Mr. Alfred Austin. He was born in 1835, his father being a merchant at Leeds, and a Roman Catholic. He was educated at Stoneyhurst and at St. Mary's College, Oscott, taking his degree at the University of London in 1853. He was called to the Bar in 1857, and became active, not only as a journalist, but as a novelist and poet, having published three novels, and no less than twelve volumes of poetry. Mrs. Houghton then proceeded to examine Mr. Austin's merit by the following tests:—(1) Power of language and metrical style; (2) power of observation and imagination; (3) pathos; (4) humour; (5) dramatic power; (6) ethical value. Mr. Austin's diction is exceedingly rich and vigorous, and the great variety of style which he can command is very remarkable. He is singularly free from the vice of unintelligibility, and his verse requires no straining on the part of the reader to arrive at its sense. His great facility in rhyming is very noticeable in his longest poem, "The Human Tragedy," which is written in stanzas of eight rhymed lines, and only three rhyme sounds; this ease of versification is also evinced by his sonnets. His power of observation and love of nature pervades all his poems, and his "Human Tragedy" alone would furnish pictures enough to stock a gallery; while "The Tower of Babel" is a signal instance of deep imaginative power. Mr. Austin may also claim the rare gift of humour, and, though his wit is rather of the satiric order, it is natural and spontaneous. Though he is remarkably free from all morbidity or unhealthiness, his works abound in pathos, as all poetry which reflects life faithfully must do. Mrs. Houghton then proceeded to consider Mr. Austin's dramatic powers. These are best illustrated by his two dramas, "Savonarola," and "Prince Lucifer." The latter is a sort of "Soul's Tragedy," and is of an essentially modern type. All his poetry places before us, negatively and positively, a high ideal of life. He inculcates a spirit of hopefulness, high endeavour, and true content; while everything that he has written is instinct with love of his kind, love of nature, and reverence for "the Power, not ourselves, which makes for righteousness."

Mrs. HOUGHTON'S paper was illustrated by the following readings:—

Sonnets { "Content" ..... "Written in Mid Channel." ..... }	Prof. ALLEN.
"If You Were Here"	Miss JOHNSON.
"The Owl and the Lark"	Mr. HOUGHTON.
"The Hymn to Death"	Prof. ALLEN.
Scene from "Prince Lucifer"	{ Miss JOHNSON. Mr. HOUGHTON.
"Grandmother's Teaching"	Miss SOUTHALL.

Miss HADLEY, after giving a short biographical sketch of Lewis Morris, proceeded to examine his works by the same tests which Mrs. Houghton had applied to the poetry of Alfred Austin. His works abound in beauties of

language and metrical skill, and in the gift of chaining the highest flights of imagination to rhythmic measure. His imaginative powers are especially evinced in the "Ode of Creation," and the examples of pathos are so numerous that they afford an *embarras de richesses*, but what little humour he possesses is chiefly of the grim kind, and is contained in the tragedy of "Gycia." This is his only drama, though there are many dramatic pieces among his other poems, such as the speech of Phædra in Hades. The plot of "Gycia" turns on a feud which has existed for many years between the kingdom of Bosphorus and the Greek republic of Cherson. The King of Bosphorus is pressed down with age and the cares of a State assailed by barbarous hosts, and is advised by the crafty Lysimachus to wed his son Assander to Gycia, the daughter of Lamachus, of the Cherson Republic. Difficulties arise, for the citizens of Cherson will not allow the marriage unless Assander gives up his home and dwells in Cherson, while the Prince himself at first refuses to wed a Chersonese maiden. However, the refractory ones fall in love with each other at first sight, and all goes well till after the death of Lamachus and the illness of the old king of Bosphorus. Then the scheming Lysimachus begins to work out his plan of getting Assander back to Bosphorus, capturing Cherson by the knowledge gained through the Prince's long residence there. The plot is complicated by Irene, a friend of Gycia's, who pretends that she was loved by Assander before he wedded Gycia. She taunts the latter with her cold love, which will not let her husband break his oath to the State and visit his sick father; and she persuades her brother Theodorus, who is in love with Gycia, to affirm Assander's guilt to his wife. Just then Assander comes in; the plot thickens—in despair he agrees to a conspiracy against the State of Cherson, which Irene discovers to Gycia, who decides that she must denounce her husband to the State, though at the sacrifice of herself. Mr. Morris's ethical tendency pervades his whole works; perhaps "Confession" best sums up his system of morality.

Miss HADLEY'S paper was illustrated by the following programme and readings:—

"Gwen and Phaedra" ..... Mr. H. A. PEARSON.
"Ode of Creation"..... Prof. HILLHOUSE.
"Gilbert and the Fair Saracen"..... Mr. H. A. PEARSON.
"Drowned" ..... Mr. H. A. PEARSON.
Two Speeches from "Gycia" ..... Mrs. E. Y. PEARSON.
"The Confession" ..... Professor HILLHOUSE.

The vote of the meeting on the respective merits of the poetry of Alfred Austin and Lewis Morris was then taken, the result being:—Lewis Morris, 37; Alfred Austin, 31.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. ARBER, seconded by Miss LEAN, and carried unanimously.

May 31st.—BUSINESS MEETING.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. After the treasurer had read the statement of accounts for the term, Dr. W. R. JORDAN read the report of the sub-committee appointed to consider whether it was possible that any future dramatic performances should be held in the College. The report, which gave a decided negative to the question, was adopted on the motion of Mr. GREENE, seconded by Mr. IRVINE.

Mr. HOWARD then moved, on behalf of the Union Committee, a resolution adding two bye-laws to the Union rules, designed to put the dramatic

performance on a more definite basis than heretofore, by placing the management of it in the hands of a special Dramatic Committee of twelve, to be elected at the annual meeting of the Union.—This resolution having been seconded by Mr. PARROTT, Dr. W. R. JORDAN moved as an amendment the addition of four bye-laws to the Union rules, the effect of which would be to create a special Dramatic Committee of eight persons, to be elected at the business meeting of the summer term, which should have full control of the finances of the performance, be empowered to charge for admission to the performance if they thought fit so to do in order to cover cost of production, have control over any properties that might be in future acquired in connection with the dramatics, and have handed over to it the profits on previous dramatic performances, and the properties acquired in connection therewith. Dr. JORDAN, in moving this amendment, said that a committee of twelve was much too large for such a purpose as arranging for a dramatic performance, and that if the committee were not elected till the annual meeting held in October, it would have very inadequate time to make the arrangements for a performance in the following January. He thought that the committee should be elected at the business meeting of the summer term.

Prof. HILLHOUSE, in seconding the amendment, emphasized the importance of beginning the arrangements for the dramatics, and therefore of electing the Dramatic Committee, as early as possible. He thought that the dramatics should be financially self-supporting, and that their funds, instead of being swamped in the general Union funds, should be kept separate. In this connection he complained of the action of the Union Committee in requiring the immediate handing over to the Union treasurer of the balance from the last dramatic performance.

The amendment was carried, and then as a substantive resolution, was agreed to unaminously. It having then been resolved that the present committee consist of the Chairman of the Academic Board, three ladies, and four gentlemen, the meeting proceeded to the election of the committee. While the votes were being counted, Mr. IRVINE, on the invitation of the Chairman, enlivened the house with a speech on the miserable Saxon and the (numerous complimentary adjectives) Celt. It is impossible for us, considering the absence of our debating reporter, to give any idea of the eloquence that held the meeting spellbound. Suffice it to say that a resolution, moved by Dr. JORDAN, expressing the house's condemnation of Mr. IRVINE's remarks on the Celt was passed. Dr. JORDAN having obliged with a recitation, "The Moorish Maiden," the following ladies and gentlemen were declared elected on the committee:—Misses CHARLES, EDWARDS, and JOHNSON; Professor HILLHOUSE, and Messrs. JORDAN, GREENE, and HOWARD, and the meeting terminated.

June 14th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. A. TARN, B.Sc., on "The Philosophy of Anarchism."

The object of the paper was to show that government generally is based upon the principle of *unequal liberty*, whilst the fundamental principle of anarchism is the *liberty of each, limited only by the equal liberty of others.* Government and law are the outward expressions of the foolish coercive desire, which possesses the minds of so many people, to see everybody acting and thinking as they do themselves. Government, therefore, is based upon the

disorderly principle of aggressive coercion, and as such is inimical to true social order. Nor is its principle altered by septennial, triennial, annual, or daily elections of our governors. To its authority every individual throughout the length and breadth of the country must submit, whatever his individual judgment may be, and anarchists simply claim that it is a good principle that each should be allowed to follow his own inclination and judgment, so long as he does not trespass upon the liberty of others. The author of the paper further showed that the primary object for which goverments exist is the maintenance of certain privileges and monopolies which are hostile to the happiness of the people, and are the main cause of our present economic disorders. The only liberty worth striving for is the liberty to *live*—that is to say, the liberty to be true to one's own conscience, and to do whatever does not infringe the liberty or mar the happiness of others. Compared with this, the mere liberty to vote for other people is not worth accepting. Government, however, can only be destroyed by the people mutually co-operating together to perform all its functions ; but when the people can trust and rely upon one another, external government is no longer necessary.

Mr. BROWETT, opening the discussion, said, in reference to Mr. Tarn's objection to taxation, that it was the price we paid for the privilege to live. If Mr. Tarn would show how the privilege could be obtained cheaper, he would be doing something worthy of attention. Mr. Tarn's views on the cause of wars were quite wrong. As a matter of fact, it was the Continental governments which prevented the people from rushing into war. Let Mr. Tarn take things as they are and try to improve them, and he would make the world and himself happier.

Mr. KIRTON likened Mr. Tarn's scheme of volunteer police to the latest Yankee notion—the Execution Company.

Mr. BROWETT then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Tarn for his paper. Dr. ALLEN, in seconding, said that a system of anarchism might be the ideal system for men : it was probably the original condition of mankind. But our great mental advance forbade our living thus now.

The vote of thanks having been passed, Mr. TARN replied. In answer to Mr. Browett, he denied that the Franco-German war was the result of popular feeling. Many of the people were for war, but there were enormous numbers of the masses of the people against war ; the Paris popular vote was against war. He could not conceive of a philanthropic government : men were too much inclined to look after their own interests. Anarchism was non-political Liberalism.

June 28th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. This, which was one of the pleasantest evenings we ever remember having spent at the Union, was devoted to a paper on Haydn by Mr. T. JOHNSON, with illustrations.

Mr. JOHNSON began his paper by referring to the important service which Haydn had rendered by marking the commencement of one of the most important epochs in the history of music, *i.e.*, that of the modern school of instrumental music, which now, instead of being subordinated to vocal music, became a separate existence. Haydn was born in 1732, and though he received only a meagre education, he soon showed great musical talent. He joined the choir of St. Stephen's at Vienna, but when, at the age of sixteen, his voice broke, he was thrown upon the world without money or friends. A

Viennese barber took pity on him and gave him employment for a time, but a serenade which he had composed attracted the attention of Curtz, a harlequin at one of the playhouses, who employed him to set to music the poem of an opera entitled "The Devil on Two Sticks."

In the earlier part of his career Haydn was much hampered by the lack of sufficient guidance, the only help he ever received being given by an old gentleman named Porpora in return for his help as *valet de chambre* and general factotum.

In 1755 Haydn composed his first quartette, which was followed in 1759 by his first symphony. At the age of twenty-eight he entered the service of Prince Esterhazy, who placed him at the head of his private orchestra, and gave him a salary of 400 florins, thus relieving him of all pecuniary difficulties and giving him plenty of time for composition. He remained thirty years in the prince's service, constantly working, and quite unconsciously making for himself a name which was spreading throughout Europe. One of the most interesting incidents of this part of his life was his generous and disinterested friendship for Mozart, who was greatly influenced by him. Soon after the death of his patron in 1790, Haydn was invited to visit England, where he was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and where amidst all the festivities with which he was honoured, he managed to compose some of his finest works. Two years later he again visited London, and, inspired by "Paradise Lost," he composed on his return to Vienna his masterpiece, "The Creation." Probably no oratorio, excepting, of course, the "Messiah" and the "Elijah," has ever been so popular. It was followed by another oratorio "The Seasons," which had an equal success. The last years of Haydn's life were passed in an almost continuous struggle with the infirmities of old age. He died in 1814 at the age of 82.

Haydn's operas are the least successful of his work; in oratorio he was more successful, and his deeply religious character was clearly impressed upon all his works of this class. It is in the department of instrumental music that Haydn exercised so much influence. With a keen appreciation of the value of form, he was able to perfect a design in which every part, while good and beautiful in itself, united to form a perfect whole; and the great merit of his work is that, while other composers had experimented in this direction, he was the first to prove by his compositions that he had discovered the most suitable form upon which to construct important instrumental music. The most important feature of his sonatas is the variations, which are particularly happy. His compositions for the pianoforte are naturally insignificant, owing to the imperfect condition of that instrument in his day. In the string quartetts we have Haydn at his best; here he seems to lay aside the air of importance, and condescends to speak in natural and familiar language. The paper was illustrated by the following programme:—

Finale from the "Surprise" Symphony .....
Miss DONALDSON, Messrs. WOOLLEY, MIDDLETON, HUXLEY, and Dr. ALLEN.

Song..... ....."With verdure clad" (Creation).
MISS F. PARKES.

Violin Solo.....Andante and Finale.
Mr. WOOLLEY.

Solo Piano ....Presto (6th Sonata).
Mr. J. D. DAVIS.

Trio—Pianoforte, Violin, and 'Cello .....
Miss DONALDSON, Dr. ALLEN, Mr. T. JOHNSON.
Song ..... "She never told her love."
Miss L. J. CHARLES.
Air with variations (Emperor Quartett) ....
Miss DONALDSON, Messrs. WOOLLEY, JOHNSON, and Dr. ALLEN.
Song ..... "My Mother bids me."
Miss F. PARKES.
Toy Symphony .....

(Mr. JOHNSON wishes to acknowledge the valuable help which he received from Miss CHARLES in getting up the musical evening.)

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. IRVINE, seconded by Miss LLOYD, and carried unanimously.

POESY CLUB.

THE first meeting of this term was held in the Examination Hall, on *May 14th*, when an evening was devoted to a Dramatic Reading by members of the club. The play selected was Lytton's "Lady of Lyons," and the choice of the Committee was fully justified by the success which attended the reading. So great was the interest exhibited that, out of a large audience, not one left before the close of the reading, although, as the play was read almost in its entirety, the time occupied was more than is usually taken by meetings of the College societies. The part of the ambitious and high-minded gardener's son, *Claude Melnotte*, was excellently read by Dr. W. R. JORDAN, and the applause with which his reading was ever and anon interrupted by the audience was richly deserved. Mr. E. H. KANNREUTHER gained much favour by a very good rendering of the part of the revengeful ex-marquis and rejected suitor, *Beauséant*. We were sorry to learn that Dr. ALLEN was suffering from a sore throat; this, no doubt, was the reason why he was occasionally inaudible as *Colonel Damas*. Among the ladies, Miss JOHNSON, who read the part of *Pauline Deschappelles*, fully maintained the high reputation she has gained in the College for elocution and acting, and Miss BROOKS was very successful as *Madame Deschappelles*. At the close of the reading, a vote of thanks was passed to the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed so much to the pleasure of the audience. The following is the complete cast :—

Claude Melnotte	Dr. W. R. JORDAN.
Colonel Damas	Dr. ALLEN.
Beauséant	Mr. E. H. KANNREUTHER.
Glavis	Mr. W. H. BAYLIS.
M. Deschappelles	Mr. W. KINETON PARKES.
Landlord, Gaspar, Capt. Gervais	Mr. A. E. JACKSON.
Pauline	Miss JOHNSON.
Madame Deschappelles	Miss BROOKS.
Widow Melnotte	Miss L. J. CHARLES.

The meeting, or, perhaps more correctly, *meet*, of June 1st will be found fully described by our special correspondent on another page.

Meeting held June 11th.—Professor ARBER in the Chair. Before the

reading of the papers on George Wither, by Miss EHRHARDT and Mr. C. L. JOSEPH, the meeting unanimously passed, on the motion of Mr. INGRAM, seconded by Miss LLOYD, a hearty vote of thanks to the Sub-Committee who had so admirably carried out the arrangements for the excursion on June 1st.

Miss EHRHARDT rapidly sketched the early life of George Wither, his birth, country home in Hampshire, education at Oxford, recall to the country, and entry as a law student at Lincoln's Inn. She then dealt with his various poetical works in the order in which they were published. After hearing quoted the opinions of several poets and critics on the works of George Wither, she concluded by reading the two defences of Poesy, from "Abuses Stript and Whipt."

(We regret that we have been unable to obtain Mr. C. L. JOSEPH'S paper, and are therefore prevented from giving an abstract of it).

A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. ALLEN, seconded by Miss EDWARDS, and carried unanimously.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—A very successful meeting of the above society was held on *May 22nd*—Dr. TILDEN in the chair. After the conclusion of the usual business the President called upon Mr. BECK to read his paper "On the Composition of Commercial Copper, and the Detection and Estimation of Minute Quantities of Impurities." The author, in the first instance, gave an account of the various physical properties of metallic copper, with brief directions whereby its purity might be roughly conjectured. He also made a pretty complete statement of the action, beneficial or otherwise, of the various impurities present in commercial copper, and the usual laboratory tests for their detection, together with those used to detect copper itself. He then proceeded to detail at some length the processes adopted by Messrs. Abel and Field in order to detect those impurities which are very liable to be overlooked when the ordinary analytical methods are resorted to. The remarkable effect small quantities of iodide of bismuth produced upon the colour of a precipitate of lead iodide was extremely interesting, and Mr. BECK stated that he had by this method been able to detect 1,000 per cent. of bismuth in a solution containing it. He concluded his paper with an account of the methods used by the Messrs. Abel and Field for the quantitative analysis of commercial copper. Dr. TILDEN pointed out the great importance of such work as this, and supplemented Mr. BECK'S paper with several suggestions; after which Mr. TURNER spoke of the difficulties attending the investigation of the influence of small quantities of impurities in copper, and the necessity for work in that direction.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—*May 16th.*—Mr. LEDSAM, B.A., read a paper on "Attention." Mr. LEDSAM began his paper by saying that he could not pretend, in the short time at his disposal, to give a thorough account of "Attention," but would only deal with the question, "What is Attention?" and touch on the physical basis of attention, which is at present only a speculative subject. Many different views are held about attention, some taking it to be a psychical activity, an original element, while others say there is *no* special function of attention. "Attention is *not*

primary, either as being there from the first, or as supervening, but it is a derivative product; nor is there any special function of attention, but various activities, if they lead to one result, are called *attending* . . . . Attention, whatever it may be besides, is, at any rate, predominance in consciousness. Some element or elements, sensational or ideal, become prominent from the rest, and seem to lower them in strength, if they do not entirely exclude them from notice." So says a writer in *Mind*, and he implies that "attention" is "predominance in consciousness," and if there is no predominance in consciousness, there is therefore no attention—*i.e.*, if there is no object of attention, no presentation or representation, attention does not exist. But there is another view, and one which seems preferable: that there is a special power, a faculty of attention, which, always present, only exerts itself when appropriate objects appear, while in other cases the power makes itself felt by a desire on our part to be actively attending. We see this in cases of expectation, when the anticipation is indefinite. We must not be led away by the idea that predominance in consciousness and attention are synonymous terms. Predominance in consciousness comes from attention, and attention does not come from predominance in consciousness. Attention is an irreducible act of mind: this is the view of the chief English psychologists. It seems rather difficult to explain what is known as "expectant attention," if we adopt the view which considers attention to be a derivative product. Adopting the opposite view, attention would seem to be best defined as the "definite momentary connection of any given content of mental life, with the sense of individual being;" and Professor Ward seems to hold a similar opinion when he says that attention is "the relation of the presentation to the subject." Mr. LEDSAM then proceeded to consider the physical basis of attention, and pointed out how sensory impressions tend to produce certain movements, and so the performance of these movements tends to produce, or call up, the various "sensory factors with which these movements cohere." In calling up ideas there is always present a muscular element, although in some cases it is not at first sight evident, as in the case of abstract ideas. When we are in deep thought, or, to use a familiar expression, when we are "all attention," the physical expression of attention is one of "intent gaze." We fix our eyes directly upon the object, or turn our ear in the direction of the sound. Even when listening to or for a particular sound, our eye is generally fixed, and hence Ferrier's phrase that the physical expression of attention is one of "intense gaze." Attention seems to be a kind of "ideal vision," especially in the case of "constructive imagination," as when we build castles in the air, for we perform the same movement of head and eyes as though we actually saw the objects we were picturing. Sometimes, when engaged in deep thought, we close our eyes to keep out distracting objects, but the eyes themselves, as it has been well said, "maintain their position of actual gaze," near or distant, according to the nature of the ideal object. It is seldom, indeed, that we can attend to anything which we do not actually see or can represent. We cannot think about a sound apart from that which produces

it. If attention be "ideal vision," it must be connected with vision proper; and from the researches of Ferrier and others there seems to be such a connection. When anything is wrong with the frontal lobes of the brain, there is a loss of mobility on the part of the head and eyes, and along with this loss of mobility there is an aspect of uninterest and stupidity, and everything which implies the loss of the faculty of attention. Again, the frontal lobes are larger in man than in animals, and it has been very often noticed that those whose frontal lobes are the longest have a greater degree of intellectual power. Though, then, there is no special seat of attention, it seems to be very closely connected with the centres of ocular movements.—The meeting concluded with a unanimous vote of thanks, proposed by Miss EDWARDS, and seconded by Mr. SKIRROW.

June 6th.—Mr. SKIRROW in the chair.—The CHAIRMAN conveyed Dr. POYNTING'S apologies to the meeting for being unable to read his paper on "Hertz Experiments."—On the resignation of both Secretary and Treasurer, a vote of thanks was presented to these officers for their work in connection with the Society.—Mr. A. R. H. INGRAM was then elected to the post of Secretary, and Mr. J. HACKETT to that of Treasurer.—A paper on "Atmospheric Electricity" was read by Mr. INGRAM, who first gave an account of the variation occurring in the amount and sign of the electrification of the atmosphere both diurnally and annually, also under weather changes. Passing on to the more important branch of the subject—viz., the phenomena of thunderstorms—he brought forward many theories and experiments of different scientists, including the recent ones of Dr. Lodge.—Mr. WHITEHOUSE, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. INGRAM, contributed to an interesting discussion which followed, in which he referred to an extraordinary case where lightning struck a wooden shed in preference to a large gasholder close at hand. The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. LIVERSEIGE and unanimously passed.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—*Wednesday, May 8th.*—Messrs. ROBERT PIERCE and GUY L. TILL, students of the Institute of Civil Engineers were elected members.—Mr. THOS. ARNALL then read a paper on "The Birmingham Tramways, Past, Present, and Probable Future." He described the permanent way and means of locomotion in each division—viz., horse-trams, steam and cable trams, and electrical trams, which he ventured to think would be the trams of the future. Of the last he said that, for Birmingham at least, the system of over-head conductors might be dismissed as impracticable. The underground conductors were more practicable, but on the whole his opinion was that the secondary battery or accumulator system would prevail, as no primary battery had yet been introduced which could compete in the least degree with any of the above systems. Mr. ARNALL afterwards gave a table, obtained from the returns of the Birmingham companies showing the expenditure per mile with steam locomotives and with horse traction. There was a long discussion, after which the sub-committee appointed to report on the three proposed routes for the summer excursion (Lancashire, South Wales and Paris) presented their report, and a resolution was ultimately carried unanimously agreeing to go to Lancashire, and leaving arrangements in the hands of the sub-committee.—The meeting then closed.

June 19th.—Mr. T. MYERS in the Chair.—The CHAIRMAN announced that the date fixed for the Lancashire excursion was July 22.—Mr. J. KNIGHT then read a paper on "The Disposal of the Birmingham Water-carried Sewage." He dated the systematic drainage of Birmingham from the passing of the Birmingham Improvement Act in 1851, when two large sewers, draining about seven-eighths of the borough, were constructed. In 1850 the Corporation was obliged to construct two large subsiding tanks, and to purchase land for the proper treatment of the sewage. In 1861 twenty-eight additional acres were obtained, and in 1867 one hundred and twenty-seven more. The sludge continuing to accumulate, it was ultimately decided to adopt the lime process at the outlet works, and accordingly sixteen tanks, with a total capacity of 729,000 cubic feet were constructed, and 100 acres of land were purchased. These were in use towards the end of 1875. In 1877 the Tame and Rea Drainage Board was formed to deal more efficiently with the sewage of Birmingham and district. The total area now dealt with by this Board is 47,000 acres, and the population is 658,000. It was found that the Birmingham and Aston works were the only ones suitable for the Board, and the rest were abandoned, and a tank of 116,000 cubic feet was constructed and used instead. After a time it was decided to acquire a piece of land of 937 acres, and to treat the sewage by vegetation. This has since been increased to 1,227 acres. The surface is generally unbroken, the sub-soil is gravel and sand, while the level is such as to admit of nearly the whole of the irrigation being effected by gravitation only. To protect the land from floods the river was straightened, widened, and deepened, and its banks protected by a slag wall. A water way was syphoned under the river-bed, from a point near the Walsall branch railway to another near Water Orton. This secures the advantage of several feet fall in the bed of the river, and a good outlet for the drains on the east of Castle Bromwich. On the west an open channel was made north of the railway, discharging into the river 1,000 yards below the station. The conduit for conveying sewage to the land is 2¾ miles long and 8 feet in diameter, and is calculated to discharge 38,000,000 gallons per day when half full. The method of purification is this:—The sewage, on arriving within quarter of a mile of the tanks, is mixed with lime, to neutralise the acids present, and also to assist in the precipitation. It then passes gently through the tanks, where the grosser impurities are deposited, and is then carried away by the main conduit and disposed on the land. The sludge in the tanks is lifted by dredge-buckets into wooden shoots, whence it flows into beds formed by low turf walls. After a fortnight it can be trenched into the land, and crops sown. The total expenditure on capital account up to Dec. 31st last was £410,033. The daily flow of sewage is twenty million gallons in dry weather. The total income from the farm last year was £20,416, and the loss on the year's working was £9,970, the whole of which was incurred at the outlet works.—After a vote of thanks to Mr. KNIGHT, the meeting terminated.

CRICKET.

MASON'S *v.* QUEEN'S.

A match between the colleges was played on Monday, 17th June, on the Portland Road Grounds. Queen's had a fairly representative team, but Mason's were not able to play a fully representative eleven.

Perkins won the toss for Queen's, and decided to bat, opening the innings with Pritchett, to the bowling of Hawley and Middleton. Perkins at once commenced hitting hard, placing Middleton three times for three. He followed this up by hitting Hawley for three 3's, and Middleton for 3. Ingram and Hooson then took up the bowling, and the pace of scoring became much slower. As no wicket fell, Hawley resumed, and in his second over Perkins was well caught at short slip by Hooson. He had made 39, including ten boundary hits for 3 each. Astbury came in, but did not stay long, being out to a splendid catch by Bryant in the long-field. (Two wickets for 56.) Lowe joined Pritchett at the wicket, and a determined stand was made. Hooson was hit by Pritchett for 3 and by Lowe for 4. This punishment brought on Hackett, who was hit for 7 by Lowe in his first over. He, however, in his third over had Lowe caught at mid-on by Middleton, and with his next ball clean bowled Pritchett, who had been batting while 82 runs were scored. Thomson and Woolley were now batting, but runs came very slowly. With the score at 95, Middleton re-commenced bowling with Hooson. Thomson was caught by Ingram in the long-field at 106, and Hancock at 107. The last wickets soon fell, and the nnings closed for 127.

Mason's started with Hooson and Nicholas, to the bowling of Perkins and Astbury. An unfortunate start was made, as, with the score at 5, Nicholas was out to a fine catch by Hancock. Kirton followed, but was cleaned bowled with the score at 7. Hackett came in, but immediately lost the company of Hooson, who was out to a spendid boundary catch by Pritchett. Hawley was run out before he had received a ball. Bryant followed, but saw Hackett bowled by a splendid ball from Perkins. Middleton joined Bryant, and these two batsmen made the longest stand of the day. Both men began to hit hard, and the score rose at a rapid rate. Bryant hit Astbury for three 3's and a 4, and hit Perkins for 4, 3, and 2. Middleton hit Astbury for 4 and 3; and Bryant hit Pritchett for 3. Thomson took the ball from Astbury with the score at 55, and at 64 the longed-for separation was effected, Bryant being caught and bowled by Perkins. He had made 29 by hard and clean hitting; his score included two 4's and five 3's. Middleton was immediately afterwards caught by Astbury. Bullows and Keep were soon disposed of, and then McKenzie and Ingram took the score from 66 to 76 for the last wicket, Ingram being bowled at the latter total. Although Mason's lost by 51 runs, the Mason's men were not disgraced. They lost the match through the muddling of three catches in the beginning of the game.

The best men for Mason's were Bryant and Middleton, and for Queen's Pritchett showed by far the best form. Score :—

QUEEN'S.

Perkins c Hooson b Hawley	29
Pritchett b Hackett	16
Astbury c Bryant b Hawley	2
Lowe c Middleton b Hackett	20
Thomson c Ingram b Hooson	10
Woolley not out	22
Hancock b Hooson	0
Chapman c Ingram b Middleton	1
Rubra b Middleton	3
Housman b Hooson	1
Shore b Hooson	0
Extras	13
Total	127

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	OVERS.	M.	R.	W.
Hawley	17	6	30	2
Middleton	9	2	25	2
Ingram	3	0	10	0
Hooson	15.3	4	35	4
Hackett	9	5	17	2

MASON'S.

T. J. S. Hooson c Pritchett b Astbury	5
M. J. Nicholas c Hancock b Astbury	0
C. N. Kirton b Perkins	1
J. Hackett b Perkins	2
S. H. Hawley run out	0
J. Bryant c and b Perkins	29
H. H. L. Middleton c Astbury b Perkins	22
W. L. Bullows lbw b Perkins	0
R. S. Keep b Thompson	1
A. R. H. Ingram b Perkins	2
W. D. McKenzie not out	5
Extras	9
Total	76

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	OVERS.	M.	R.	W.
Perkins	14.1	5	18	5
Astbury	13	2	37	2
Pritchett	1	0	5	0
Thomson	3	1	6	2

CYCLISTS' CLUB.

May 25th.—The first Inter-club run with Q.C.C.C. took place on May 25th, when thirty-four members and friends of the two clubs visited Berkswell. The weather was fine, and after tea a very successful photograph of the party was taken by Dr. NICOL.

June 8th.—The run to Rowington was attended by ten persons, the small number being a consequence of the Whitsuntide holiday. A very pleasant afternoon was spent.

June 15th.—Fifteen members paid a visit to Sutton, and were joined at tea by the Botanical excursionists, after which there was a general stampede to the boats.

June 22nd.—By special request, the run to Henley was exchanged for a combined cycling and boating expedition to Stratford-on-Avon. Twenty-five members and friends were present, and reserved carriages in the excursion train secured an easy journey. The fact that other excursionists seemed, by mutual consent, to have avoided Stratford added much to the comfort of the Cyclists' Club, who might almost be said to have hired the river for the afternoon.

COLLEGE NOTES.

We notice with pleasure that Dr. S. BARWISE has been appointed Medical Officer at Southport.

The following distinctions have recently been gained by former students of Mason College:—Mr. LAY, Fifth in the Mathematical Tripos; Mr. A. BERNARD BADGER, B.A., First Class, Final School of Natural Science Oxford; Mr. J. F. JORDAN, third M.B., final M.B., and B. Ch. of Royal University.

We congratulate Miss CHARLES, B.Sc., and Miss L. J. CHARLES on having gained the second prize in the Ladies' Doubles at the Midland Counties Lawn Tennis Tournament.

Subscribers are requested to pay their subscriptions for the volume which concludes with this number at once. Great inconvenience has been caused to the Editorial Board through neglect in this particular.

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Vol. VIII.

THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS

NOVEMBER, 1889.

CONTENTS.

VOL. VIII.

No. 1.

The Subscriptions for Vol. VIII. are now due, and should be paid to the Treasurer, Mr. W. H. BAYLIS.

Mason College Magazine.

(Conducted by Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

No. 1, Vol. VIII. **NOVEMBER, 1889.** Price 6d.

CALENDAR.

December 5th.—Physical Society.
" 6th.—Union Meeting.
" 10th—Poesy Club Meeting.
" 20th—Union Meeting.

EDITORIAL.

With the present number the Mason College Magazine attains the dignity of its eighth year, for its birthday, like that of some few fortunate mortals, is a moveable feast, and has been transferred from the first to the eighth month.

The present number has, however, unfortunately made its appearance late, and has only just scrambled in in November. Nor does it compensate for the tardiness of its appearance by the excellence of its contents. By dint of gentle persuasion and a species of unremunerated dunning, known to editors and the like, the reports were gathered in, and constitute the main part of the Magazine, for to tell the truth we have exceeded our stipulated quantum of small print; but had we waited for the articles, which we surely had a right to expect, since such things are not, like manna, rained down from heaven, we should have been waiting still.

Imagine the disappointment of an august board, assembling with their critical faculties ready primed, to find that their editor, who is only too anxious in reading the contributions to bring out the fine passages and to slur over the weak points, has nothing to lay before them but their own reports, which, according to their temper, they either subject to a searching criticism or pass with an apathy born of disappointed hope.

For the sake of these ladies and gentlemen, if not for the sake of literary fame, we ask you to do your utmost to make our next number a success and worthy of the season at which it will appear.

PRE-RAPHAELITISM. *

We have received a little book on the above subject, consisting of papers which originally appeared in the *Ruskin Guild Journal*, and are now published in book form; and, while the subject is an interesting one in itself, these reprinted articles must be doubly interesting to the students of Mason College, because the author was at one time one of themselves.

One generation succeeds another so quickly that revolutions in art or literature, which made a sensation at the time they took place, are in a few years accepted as the natural and proper thing, and excite no wonder in our minds. The battle is won, and, we, who come up after the struggle, can scarcely appreciate the effort which was necessary for victory, and we do not stand at a sufficient distance from the event to be able to estimate its results properly: we see the eddies, but do not comprehend whither they tend.

But in any review which we, the younger children of the nineteenth century, can take of its progress in the fine arts, one movement must stand out in vivid relief, which, taking place exactly mid-way in the century (1849), has completely altered the direction of English art, and has given a tremendous impetus to its development towards truth and perfection. This revolution is the "Pre-Raphaelite" movement.

We must refer our readers to Mr. Parkes's book for a definition of Pre-Raphaelitism, and for a history of its founders. He gives a most sympathetic account of the difficulties they met and conquered, of the opposition they encountered, of the poverty and self-denial which one of the Brotherhood underwent in his pursuit of truth, and of their final triumph over their opponents.

Mr. Parkes is an enthusiast, and will not allow that the Pre-Raphaelite movement was a failure. But, though the brave resistance which the Brotherhood made to all conventionality has had a most splendid result in pointing out a new path for younger artists, and in breaking the bonds of a constraining tradition, we cannot but admit that the school has had few fresh disciples; and he who was the prime original agitator still remains at the head. D. G. Rossetti is dead; Millais has modified his views; Holman Hunt alone remains faithful to the old ideal, and perhaps of all those he has influenced, only E. Burne Jones could be characterised

* "The Pre-Raphaelite Movement," by Kineton Parkes. London: Reeves and Turner. Birmingham: William Downing.

as a "Pre-Raphaelite." W. D. Rossetti himself admits this, although perhaps he would not allow that this admission could be construed into an acquiescence with those who characterise the movement as a failure. And, looking at it from the highest point of view, it is *not* a failure. There may be a few who follow on the exact lines of the master, but who can tell how many of those painters whom we now revere as our greatest would ever have departed from the old, deadening conventionalities if the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood had not first led the way?

We cordially recommend Mr. Parkes's little book to our readers. It is brightly and simply written, and not overburdened with technicalities which might make it difficult of comprehension to the uninitiated in art; and it is with the deepest interest that we have followed the history of "Pre-Raphaelitism" as told in these reprinted papers.

C. T.

PERRANZABULOE.

On the west coast of Cornwall, not far from the mining village of St. Agnes, where the painter Opie first saw the light, is the bay, known by the name of Perran Porth. This is wide, and is not framed in by the tall cliffs which flank its extremities, but which give place in the centre to light-coloured sand-dunes, rising to some height, and spread out in a wide monotonous succession of small hills and dales. It is among these that the Church of St. Perran, a convert to the Christian faith in 382, is to be found; and it was towards them that the few of the coaching party, whose antiquarian zeal was sufficient to induce them to leave the grand sea-worn arches and picturesque bays formed in the rocks of the southern promontory, directed their steps.

It is needless to say that I and my companion were among these few—for we speak more willingly of that we have done than of that we have not done, even if we have acquainted ourselves solely with a village, and left a universe unexplored.

We were impelled partly by a restlessness inherent in our natures, which hourly led us to be up and doing instead of indulging in pensive dreaming by the sad sea waves, and partly by that desire to have the most for our money, which induces many people to spend hours in looking at things which bore them inexpressibly.

According we set off up the sandy incline, directing our steps towards a lemonade booth, which we opined would probably be

set up on the route to the principal object of interest, Perranzabuloe or Perran in sabulo.

Now, in every party it falls to the lot of one to study the often despised but nevertheless indispensable guide-book, and to dispense to the rest in small doses the multitudinous facts, to which it is their duty zealously to listen, and of which, at an easy computation, they remember one in a hundred.

On this occasion it was I who filled this rôle, and as both our guide-books dwelt on the extreme difficulty of discovering the little church, which has been unearthed from beneath the sand, I was consumed with a desire for further information about its situation, and regarded my companion's disinclination to ask the way as senseless in the extreme. Fortunately, however, when we had seemingly left our fellow-mortals far behind, we met an old man, who proved to be a guide, coming down the hill. In spite of my companion's objection I addressed myself to him, but, flurried by the supercilious attitude of my comrade, gave him and his rambling description only half an ear.

However, he told us to follow a couple who had suddenly appeared ahead until we came to an engine-house, the roof of which had slipped off. This we reached successfully, in spite of the disappearance of the couple—lovers evidently, who sought not the church but solitude, there to dream, perhaps, of the edifice they would one day enter, attired in white satin and irreproachable morning dress, to be made happy for life.

Around us from the engine-house we saw a wide succession of sand-hills, alike in all directions, bounded far ahead by St. Cubert's steeple and on the extreme right by a farm-house, studded with similar ruinous engine-houses, which added to the monotony of the landscape.

Here, to my dismay, we discovered that while the one had understood that we were to keep the engine-house on our left, the other thought it should be kept to our right. Clearly, without the help of Logic, except that natural logic which nature has bestowed upon us all, we could not both be right, and looking round at the dreary sand-hills, among which we might wander for hours, I was struck by the forlornness of our situation, and my feelings equalled those of Robinson Crusoe, or Alexander Selkirk, when he was not overcome by his natural boastfulness. Touched by the piteousness of my representations, my companion listened to a paragraph from the guide-book, and poring over the trumpery map, which was all we had, with the steeple as our landmark, we fixed on a general

direction in which to proceed. Our progress was, however, slow, as we found it necessary to run up and down every sand-hill, which, as the sand was loose and riddled with rabbit burrows, was no easy task. After a mile or two of this we thought the weather exceedingly warm, and heaved a sigh of relief when the stone cross, of which the guide-book spoke, appeared in the distance.

On reaching it we found it similar to the crosses which are so common in Cornwall, but taller than most. It had been moved there from a second church, a later one than that we were seeking, which had been engulfed and of which this old stone cross alone remained.

Here, on diligently consulting the guide-book, we came to the conclusion, not without a feeling of disappointment, that we had already passed the old church and taken it for a cattle-shed. And no wonder, for on revisiting it we found it consisted of nothing but roofless walls, enclosing a space 25-ft. by 12½-ft., with an aperture for a doorway, signs of a small window and a flat altar-stone at the east end, inscribed with the name of St. Piranus. All trace of ornamentation had long since disappeared, and probably the size of the altar-stone and stones in the masonry alone protected them from the unsatiable appetite for momentos exhibited, alas, not by Americans alone.

We sat on the altar-stone, and my companion patiently listened to all I could find descriptive of the little church, one of the earliest British buildings, and of the life of the saint, whose good works among the miners of the district had caused it to be erected, and whose skeleton, of gigantic proportions, is said to be buried beneath.

In the solitude of the sand-dunes, with the hush of mid-day around us, our thoughts went back to those early times of which we knew so little, but which had meant so much to the saint, whose strong clear brain and kind brave heart were no more, but whose bones still rested beneath us.

For a few moments this unlovely neglected link with past ages made us think—and how seldom do we do so—and we listened to one of those sermons of which the melancholy Jacques speaks, and which those who seek their pleasure in crowds seldom hear.

We saw afterwards the only other two members of our party who had made a pilgrimage to this early shrine. Their search had not been rewarded as soon as ours, and they had walked for hours over the loose shifting sand. Our superior luck was no reason why we should have been puffed with pride, and have regarded with

scorn the stones they had been at the trouble of carrying away with them; yet, too often, alas! in spite of sermons, human nature is human nature.

THE UNION.

October 14th.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair. The evening was devoted to "Holiday Notes," read by several members.

Miss CADDICK read a very interesting account of a holiday spent in Palestine. She said that after leaving London, at the end of January, she reached Jaffa on February 18th, and found that it was a glorious time to arrive, as the rains were just over and everything was looking fresh and green. The wild flowers were entrancing in their brilliance of colour, and at Jaffa the ripe oranges were a delight. While there she saw the supposed site of the house of Simon the Tanner, the tomb of Tabitha, and the remains of Solomon's harbour. From Jaffa she rode through Ramleh, past the scene of David's fight with Goliath, to Jerusalem, and found the road very rough and passing over stony bare-looking hills. The view of Jerusalem from the Jaffa road proved to be most disappointing, the modern houses only being in sight and everything looking bare and uninteresting. One of the first expeditions which she made from Jerusalem was to go to Bethany and to walk back over the Mount of Olives, from which a sudden glorious view of the Holy City is obtained—a sight wonderful and never to be forgotten. Jerusalem is so grandly placed, with the old wall round it, and the sudden steep descent into the valley of Jehoshaphat below it, that in the days of Solomon's Temple and palaces it must indeed have been a dazzling sight. She also visited Bethlehem, Hebron, the Dead Sea, the Jordan, and indeed almost all the places of interest mentioned in the Bible. Then from Damascus she visited Baalbec, where she was struck with the grandeur of the ruins and the perfection of the situation, and spent many moments in wondering how in those old days they contrived to build with stones weighing 1,500 tons. From Baalbec she had a delightful ride over Lebanon to Beyrout, where she visited the Dog River and saw the ancient Assyrian and Egyptian sculptures. After which, with a sigh of regret, she left behind her her tent life and returned to the more prosaic hotel life.

Miss BULLER then read an account of a holiday at Whitby, in which she gave a pleasing account of the history and antiquities of that interesting place.

Mr. CHAS. GREENE gave a very humorous account of a holiday spent on the Oxford Canal in a barge by the same company whose adventures as "Amateur Gypsies" were so capitally described by Mr. Irvine in a paper read before the Union last session. Mr. Greene's paper was illustrated by some very good photographs of the party and their barge, taken at various stages of their voyage.

Mr. THOMAS TURNER'S paper gave an interesting account of a holiday spent in Scotland, in the course of which he described his adventures while going from Edinburgh on a bicycle in search of a new, retired spot where his party might take up their abode. This he found at length in Lawers, at the foot of Ben Lawers, on Loch Tay—a small place, some of whose characteristic features he humorously described. The paper was rendered the more interesting by the admirable sketches done by Mrs. Turner

of a number of the places passed through by Mr. Turner on his route between Edinburgh and Lawers.

A cordial vote of thanks proposed by Dr. TILDEN, seconded by Mr. A. W. HAINES, terminated the proceedings.

October 18th.—BUSINESS MEETING.—Mr. HOWARD in the chair, until the election of the new chairman, when he retired to make room for Mr. HAINES.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Chairman, Mr. A. W. HAINES; Treasurer, Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON; Hon. Secs., Miss KEEP and Mr. LEDSAM; Union Committee, Misses BROWN, DEANE, LEAN, and LLOYD, Messrs. DAIN, HOWARD, INGRAM, and PARROTT; Editor of the Magazine, Miss EDWARDS; other Members of the Editorial Board, Misses BAYLISS and CHARLES, Messrs. BAYLIS, BRANSON, INGRAM, and W. R. JORDAN.

The RETIRING SECRETARY read the report of the Committee for the past year, which was accepted; in the discussion on the report Professor HILLHOUSE said that in his opinion the falling off in membership and attendance noticed in the report was due to the conduct of certain attenders at the Union meetings.

The Treasurer's balance-sheet, showing a balance of £10 3s. 8d., was read by Mr. DAIN, and accepted.

The report of the Editorial Board and the Magazine Statement of Accounts were read by Mr. W. H. BAYLIS and accepted.

Miss CHARLES then directed the attention of the Union to the suggestion thrown out by Professor Arber at one of the Union meetings of last session with reference to college colours and badge, and moved that a committee be elected to consider the matter and report to the Union at its business meeting in the spring term. This resolution, seconded by Miss EDWARDS and supported by Professor ARBER, was carried unanimously. After several votes had been taken on the question of the composition of the committee, it was ultimately decided, on the motion of Miss CHARLES, seconded by Mr. HOOSON, that the committee consist of four members of the staff, four ladies, and four gentlemen, and, the election being proceeded with, Professors ARBER, HILLHOUSE, POYNTING and TILDEN, Misses CHARLES, DEANE, EDWARDS and FULLER, and Messrs. COOKE, HOOSON, LEDSAM and MACKENZIE.

Miss L. J. CHARLES and Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU were elected as non-official auditors to audit the Union accounts.

Professor HILLHOUSE then moved that the action of the Dramatic Committee in presenting the stage, with its appurtenances, to the Birmingham Kyrle Society be approved and confirmed. Professor Hillhouse explained that although the Union had handed over the stage, &c., to the Dramatic Committee, and the latter had full power to give the stage away without reference to the Union, the Committee had thought it better that the gift should be approved by the Union as a whole. The resolution was seconded by Mr. F. R. HOWARD, and carried unanimously.

Mr. HAINES, from the chair, then proposed, and Mr. TUCKWELL seconded, that a vote of condolence be accorded to Madame Loreille and her family in the sad loss they had sustained. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. LEDSAM proposed, and Miss LINDSAY seconded, that a vote of thanks be given to the retiring committee for their work during the past year. This was carried unanimously. The meeting then terminated.

October 25th.—Mr. KINETON PARKES, B.A., in his paper on "The Writing of Novels and the Reading thereof," dealt shortly with the origin and growth of fiction from the earliest times. The roots of prose romance are found in the literature of the Greeks. The first sensational novel was written by a bishop—Heliodorus; and St. John of Damascus was also guilty of telling a story, which was called "Baalam and Josophat." The word "novel" was first applied to a hundred stories published at the close of the 13th century. Fifty years after Boccaccio wrote "The Decameron," which was a distinct step in the development of the novel, as in it, for the first time, a number of distinct stories were woven together by narrative. Many subsequent distinguished writers have borrowed from Boccaccio, including Shakspere and Tennyson. The publication of Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" was an event of importance in the history of English fiction. "Robinson Crusoe" was the next great work, and then Richardson, Fielding, Smollett, Sterne and Goldsmith followed on, paving the way for the advent of Scott. The lecturer then dealt with the history of novels in the present century, and traced the growth of the realistic novel, and he referred somewhat in detail to the works of Lord Lytton and Lord Beaconsfield. Dickens, Thackeray and Kingsley were referred to shortly, and a portion of the paper was devoted to the consideration of the works of women writers of fiction. George Eliot, Mr. Parkes said, "o'ertops all women, as Shakspere o'ertops all men, and her place as an artist is but little removed from the highest." Living writers of fiction were dealt with, including Mr. George Meredith, Mr. Marion Crawford, Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, Mr. Rider Haggard and others. A section of the paper was devoted to American novelists, stress being laid on the works of W. D. Howell and Henry James, jun., as being the chief exponents of the analytic school of novel-writers. The lecturer then entered on a consideration of the novel as we find it at the present time, and although he did not think that we were to be entirely satisfied with it, yet the outlook was not entirely black. There are some few men—young ones for the most part—who seem willing and able to carry on the good work of English novel-writing.

At the conclusion of the paper Mr. W. R. JORDAN, who was in the chair, called upon Mr. POPE to propose a vote of thanks. This was seconded by Miss FULLER, and on being put to the meeting was unanimously passed.

November 8th.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair. The evening was occupied by a debate on the resolution, "That arbitration is a more rational method of settling national differences than war."

Miss G. SOUTHALL, moving the resolution, said that she was glad that a moral question such as the one before them was to be discussed by the Union. She disclaimed any intention of attempting to prove that war under all circumstances was unjustifiable; neither was she going to deal with wars of the past, her arguments would be confined to the present time. Arguing against the war system, she touched upon the horrors of war, and the devastation of temples and works of art caused by war. The cost of war had largely increased in modern times, and many nations had an enormous national debt, the fruits of war expenditure. Italy, in particular, was groaning under a weight of taxation which had been imposed upon her by war. Miss Southall denied that large standing armies prevented war; the countries of Europe, every one with a large army, were continually

afraid of war, while the United States, with a small military force, could count upon lasting peace. Combating the argument that arbitration would destroy the heroism and noble qualities of mind which were called forth in the field, the speaker asked, Were there no other openings for the exercise of these qualities? It was objected that it was an enthusiast's dream to hope that war could be abolished and arbitration firmly established in its place, but it was not so very long since it was said that the abolition of slavery was a dream unlikely to be fulfilled; and sanitary reformers were now met with the same objection. Going on to speak of the substitutes for war in settling national disputes, Miss Southall considered that arbitration was preferable to either diplomacy or international law. It was no new thing. Since 1815 it had been applied in fifty-eight cases, including the Alabama dispute in 1871. Its great merit was that it settled matters, and did not leave rancorous feelings behind.

Mr. A. R. H. INGRAM, opening on the negative, said that he did not stand before the Union as the champion of the blood-thirsty warrior, and a supporter of war at all costs; on the contrary, if by any means war could be ended he would rejoice as much as anyone. He could not say that all wars were rational or reasonable, but war was a stern necessity in consequence of men's desire for gain and glory, which, when carried to extremes, must be met with force. The speaker said that his object was to prove that arbitration was impossible. How were nations to deal with pirates but by war? It was absurd to think of dealing with them by arbitration. Again, how could nations arbitrate with savage tribes who might have aggrieved them? How, for instance, was arbitration possible with so treacherous a foe as Theobald, King of Abyssinia? There were cases in which arbitration was attended with great risks. Would it have been safe to have submitted the demands of Philip II. of Spain to arbitration, when most of the sovereigns of Europe were hostile to Protestantism and England? In some cases arbitration had been followed by more disastrous wars than would otherwise have taken place. Thus the arbitration of Edward I. between the rival claims of Balliol and Bruce to the crown of Scotland led to a war which involved not only Scotland but England; and Napoleon's attempt at arbitration in Spain led to the Peninsular war. Wars in the past had been necessary for colonization, and had therefore helped the extension of civilization. Even the slaughter of war had its uses, since the supply of human beings was greater than the demand. In conclusion, Mr. Ingram said the basis of his argument was that, as arbitration was only applicable in a moral state of society, it was impracticable, and therefore irrational.

Mr. HALLWRIGHT, seconding the resolution, said that, in addition to the material evils of war, it had bad moral tendencies. Those who had to take part in scenes of rapine and bloodshed were hardened. The evils of war fell on the innocent, and not on those who had caused the war. Logically, arbitration followed on the suppression of duelling.

Mr. SPROAT, seconding on the negative, argued that arbitration would give a poor, weak nation, with statesmen at its head who were cunning and unscrupulous the advantage over a strong and more honest nation. It was extremely illogical to refer the disputes of two nations to a third party, perhaps not wholly disinterested.

Miss SAXELBY, referring to the argument that war was necessary in

consequence of men's evil passions, hoped that, as evolution advanced, these passions would gradually disappear.

Mr. W. A. BRECKINGTON said that of the two alternatives, arbitration and war, arbitration was certainly the one more in accordance with our reasoning faculties. Whether it were more rational, in the sense of being the more judicious and practicable, was open to more question. He (the speaker) was inclined to think it was, if not carried to too extravagant lengths, as in the cases of the Alabama and of South Africa.

Mr. L. S. MARKS, speaking on the negative, said that the large expenditure on war which the proposer of the resolution complained of helped other trades besides those intimately connected with war implements. War necessitated a drilled army and thus raised the physical condition of men. Military service was useful for getting rid of troublesome members of the community.

The debate was continued by Messrs. MALINS, EMERY, FORRESTER (a visitor), AUSTIN, and BAYLIS. Miss SOUTHALL having replied, the vote was taken, the result being that the resolution was carried by 48 votes to 23.

FOOTBALL.

Association Rules.

MASON'S *v.* QUEEN'S.

A match between Mason's and Queen's was played on Thursday, 7th November, at Birchfields. Mason's were without Hooson, Harcombe, and Butcher, whilst Queen's played, with one exception, their strongest team.

Mason's kicked off uphill, against the wind, and the ball was at once taken near the Mason's goal but was kicked behind. A period of mid-field play followed; then, after Queen's had taken a corner kick, Field got away with a fine run but was stopped before he became dangerous, and the ball was taken into Mason's goal. Harris saved his goal after a corner kick, and Mann and Hallwright made a good run up the centre, Notley returning the ball to Wilkes, who made a good shot at the Mason's goal—the ball missing the post by a few inches. Two corners were badly taken by Queen's, and a third was taken by H. Shore, the ball being headed through by Ritchie, scoring first goal for Queen's. From the mid-field kick Hallwright and Nicholas made a fine run up the right, and Mann and Field came up in time to assist in putting the ball through the Queen's goal, making the score one goal each. The kick-off was followed by mid-field play until Atkins beat Harris with a long shot, scoring the second goal for Queen's. Midfield play ensued for several minutes, and then Queen's attacked, but Bryant and Harris saved, a corner being awarded to Queen's directly afterwards; Shore took the kick, and the ball was returned to him, and he put in a shot which scored the third goal for Queen's. Mason's then attacked till half-time was called.

Upon resumption of play, Queen's at once attacked, but put the ball behind the post. Ritchie then made a very fine run up the right and centred, but the ball was kicked down-field. The Mason's men now began to wake up and attacked very strongly, but were continually repulsed; Hallwright and Field got away together, but the ball went behind. The Queen's at last made a run, but Bryant saved and placed to the forwards, who were stopped by Cook. Mason's then made three successive attacks, but were repulsed, and then

Queen's made a run, and were stopped by Hawley. Mason's then attacked several times, and nearly scored. Queen's then made a combined run, but Hawley cleared splendidly, putting the ball to Hallwright, who made a splendid run to the other end ; the same player made another good run a minute afterwards, but was stopped by Cook. Mason's again went away, Field and Hallwright playing well together, but the goal was saved. Queen's made a last run up the centre and managed to put the ball through, and the game ended a win for Queen's by four goals to one.

The Queen's men had certainly the best of the game in the first half, but the second was as certainly greatly in favour of Mason's, who ought to have scored several times in the last twenty minutes.

For the winners, Ritchie was the best man, and was well helped by Wilkes and Atkins. Cook played a very fine back game ; the rest of the team were decidedly poor. For Mason's, Hawley at back played a very good and, at times, brilliant game. Bryant and Pool were very good during the second half, and Nicholas and Field worked well in the earlier portions of the game. By far the best man on the field was Hallwright, who played a really brilliant game throughout—some of his runs in the second half were especially fine and of great value to his side.

Mason's Team :—Goal, Harris; backs, Hawley and Bullows; half-backs, Poole, Bryant, and Barnet ; forwards, Smith, Mann, Nicholas, Field, and Hallwright.

Queen's Team :—Goal, P. A. Shore ; backs, Tonks and H. Cook ; half-backs, Notley, Cook, and Atkins ; forwards, Ritchie, Wilkes, Hughes, H. Shore, and Joy.

Rugby Rules.

MASON'S *v.* QUEEN'S.

This match was played on the Queen's Ground, Handsworth, on Wednesday, 13th November. The Mason's team was not very representative, and Queen's were without three of their best men.

Jordan kicked off for Mason's, and Queen's at once started off, and carried play into their opponents' twenty-five. Hillyar made a fine run, and got in for Queen's after five minutes' play ; Minshull took the kick and scored the first goal for Queen's. From the kick-off Hillyar and Burges got away in turn, but were stopped ; then Woolley got away and passed to Hillyar, the latter placing the ball to Rowlands, who got in a second time for Queen's, Minshull converting into a goal. Mason's now woke up and carried the ball towards the Queen's goal, Brockington being conspicuous. Woolley received the ball, and made a very good run towards Mason's territory but was pulled up by Barclay, who returned the ball well up the field. Hillyar made another good run, but did not get behind ; Nicol saved very brilliantly a moment afterwards, but Queen's got away and put the ball behind ; the kick was taken by Minshull and the third goal scored just as the whistle blew for half-time. Upon resumption Queen's at once took up the play ; Nicol cleared, but Minshull obtained the ball and passed to Stapleford, who scored a try for Queen's, Minshull kicking the fourth goal. Mason's now made their most dangerous attack, but were stopped by Woolley ; Jordan again transferred play to Queen's territory, but received no support. Queen's cleared, and Robertson went away in brilliant style for Queen's, and passed to

Rowlands, who scored the fifth try, a goal being kicked by Minshull. Again Minshull went away, but was stopped; Jones made a splendid run towards his own goal; Robertson made a brilliant run, and nearly got in for Queen's. Hillyar made a capital attempt, running half the length of the field, and passing all the Mason's men in succession, and ran in well under the post. The kick failed, the ball hitting the post. Hillyar nearly scored, being stopped by Jordan just in time to save the try, but immediately afterwards Robertson scored splendidly, the goal being kicked by Minshull. Shortly afterwards "No side" was called, with the score standing six goals one try to nil in favour of Queen's.

The match was altogether in favour of Queen's, for whom Robertson, Hillyar and Minshull played a magnificent game, and were ably supported by Stableford, Woolley, and Rowlands. The Mason's men were much lighter than their opponents, and some of them were comparatively useless. Jordan played a very good game, and Nicol, Hasluck and Barclay showed good form —in fact, these four saved their side from a disastrous defeat.

Mason's Team :—Barclay, Lyster, Nicol, Hasluck, Bennett, W. A. Brockington, J. F. Jordan (captain), Harrison, Malins, A. A. Brockington, Jones, Finney, Rose, Marks and Perry.

Queen's Team :—Minshull (captain), Hillyar, Rowlands, Woolley, Robertson, Goodwin, Burges, James, Tipping, Stableford, Edwards, Rubra, Chapman, Wallis and White.

In Memoriam.

It is with feelings of sorrow that we have to report the death of Professor Loreille, French Professor at the College since 1884. He died on the 2nd of September, at Valery-en-Caux. His loss is felt not only by his own pupils, with whom he was deservedly popular, but by all who knew him in the social life of the College. From these his kind heart and genial manner won feelings of warm admiration and sincere liking, and in losing him they feel that they have lost a faithful friend, whose place it will be difficult to fill.

CYCLING CLUB.

Of the three runs down on the programme for October, two took place, that to Alvechurch being prevented by bad weather. Of these the first was to Hampton-in-Arden, and a considerable party left Snow Hill by the 2.40 train for Solihull. From Solihull they proceeded to walk to Hampton, being favoured by the weather, which displayed the trees and hedges in all the splendour of their autumn colouring. A stroll round the church and a view of a gorgeous sunset from the picturesque street of Hampton preceded tea at the inn, after which a second visit to the church was amply repaid by an organ recital kindly given for the special benefit of the club by the lady organist. The gloom of the church, owing to the darkness which had succeeded the brilliant sunset colours, did not detract from the charms of the solemn organ music.

At the second run, in spite of an inopportune shower just before starting and in spite of the absence of Miss Edwards, the attendance was not much below that on the preceding excursion. The party again set out by the 2.40 train from Snow Hill, but on this occasion they journeyed only as far as Acock's Green, from which place they had a pleasant walk to Solihull, finding, to their relief, that the rain had passed over. As before, a visit to the church preceded tea, and the party was fortunate in having light enough to see the fine old building and in securing the good offices of the organist, who furnished them with an unexpected recital, which to one of the party, who kindly undertook to blow, was warm work. After tea some went to the station, while the rest of the party set off to return to Acock's Green. From these we hear rumours of a dark and dirty lane with unexpected pitfalls in the way of ditches and a veritable river flowing across their path, but as none were reported missing, we presume that they encountered these dangers successfully.

What became of the cycling party, with their gallant captain at their head and their not less gallant sub-captain at their rear, remained a mystery on both these occasions, but among all the surmises which may be hazarded, one fact remains—that they were not waiting at the destination to cheer the flagging footsteps of the wayworn pedestrians.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting this session was held on Monday, October 28th, 1889, in the Physics Laboratory. The programme consisted (1) of a Note on Composite Photography, by Professor ALLEN, who explained the apparatus required to carry out the process, which consists essentially in the superposition of a number of impressions from different negatives; and pointed out the physiological application of the result—viz., for obtaining the *average physiognomy* of the different types of constitution, whether in health or disease. In combining photographs the defects of one face are annulled by the opposite defects of another, and thus the composite photograph is usually better looking than most of its components, showing that the race is generally better-looking than the individual. (2) An exhibition of specimens, with physiological experiments, contributed by Professors Allen, Bridge and Hillhouse, Miss Deane, Mr. Bolton, Mr. J. F. Jordan and Mr. C. F. Myers-Ward. Thirty-five members and friends were present, and nineteen ladies and gentlemen were duly elected members—viz., Misses Lean, Saxelby and Stern, and Messrs. Allport, Atkyns, Cullis,

Edwards, Fernie, Harrison, Hickinbotham, Hoowitch, Lapworth, Lowe, Mason, Richards, Sellors, Stableford, Tonks and Wintle.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on Monday, November 4th, in the Biological Lecture Theatre. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—As Vice-Presidents, Mrs. HILLHOUSE and Miss CHARLES, B.Sc.; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. MYERS; as Committee, Misses BAYLISS, LEAN and MATHEWS, Messrs. DAIN, EMANUEL, EMERY and HAINES. The PRESIDENT then read his address, his subject being a History of Botany up to the time of Malpighi and Grew. Some interesting old copies of these authors were handed round at the end of the meeting. A vote of thanks, somewhat humorously proposed by Mr. INGRAM, and seconded by Mr. EMERY, terminated the proceedings.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society was held on November 7th, when Professor POYNTING gave a paper on "Hertz Experiments." Hertz has demonstrated, by a series of experiments, the complete analogy between electric waves and those of light and heat. These experiments were reproduced by Professor Poynting in a manner at once interesting and comprehensible to those possessing only the slightest knowledge of physics. Starting with a short history of the theory of electric and magnetic waves—as propounded by Maxwell—he showed, by using a detector consisting of a circular conducting wire, interrupted at one point and placed in the path of the wave so that a current is excited in it, that these waves may not only be proved to exist but may also be reflected, refracted and polarised, exactly as is the case with light waves, from which they differ only in being of enormously greater size, and incapable of exciting the retina. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. MARKS, and seconded by Mr. EMERY. Present, thirty-two members and friends.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday, October 18th. Eighteen members present.—After Dr. TILDEN had exhibited some interesting slides showing polarisation by crystalline salts, and Miss DEANE had shown some beautiful specimens of minerals, Miss LLOYD read a paper on "Osmotic Pressure, with special reference to Raoult's theory." Osmotic pressure was defined as "the influence which bodies in solution exercise upon their solvent, causing alteration in the boiling, freezing, and maximum density points." From the laws which govern these phenomena the molecular weight of the dissolved substance can, it is claimed, be determined. The investigations of Rüdorff (1861), De Coppet (1871–2), and Raoult (1883–6) proved that in solutions of all substances—organic and inorganic, solid, liquid and gaseous—the depression of the freezing-point is proportional to the number of molecules of dissolved substance in 100 $\bar{g}$ of solvent. From this the molecular weight of the dissolved substance can be calculated. She then touched on the physical side of osmotic pressure with reference to Pfeffer's experiments and Vaut Hoff's views on the behaviour of bodies in solution; and the various recent applications of Raoult's method.—In the discussion, in which Dr. Nicol, Mr. Turner, Mr. Cooper and Dr. Tilden took part, Dr. TILDEN agreed with Miss Lloyd in thinking that Raoult's method would prove useful for determining the molecular weight, not only of organic substances but of metals, colloids or other substances unapproachable by the ordinary methods.—A vote of thanks

to Miss Lloyd terminated the proceedings.—Those interested in the subject will be glad to hear that an account of Miss Lloyd's paper will shortly appear in the *Chemical News*.

ZOO-PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society was held on Monday, November 11th, when Dr. J. F. JORDAN read a paper on "Changes in cells during secretion." He began by describing the structure of cells, passing then to the possible changes which take place in their building up and in their breaking down. This was followed by a detailed description of the changes in secretory cells. Several good microscopic sections were shown to illustrate the paper. Some of them had been prepared according to Langley's latest method, and were a great success.—The customary vote of thanks and short discussion, in which Professors Bridge and Allen and Mr. C. F. M. Ward joined, closed the meeting.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—We regret that no report of the meetings of this Society has reached us.

POESY CLUB.

The first meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday, October 8th, Professor Arber in the chair—when two papers were read on "The Arthurian Legends." The first was by Miss CLARA THOMSON, and was entitled "The Legend of the Holy Grail." In it she compared in an interesting manner the treatment of this legend by Malory with the poetical treatment of the same theme by Tennyson. The second paper was by Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, M.A., and was entitled "Notes on Modern Versions of the Legends," in the course of which he dealt with poems by Matthew Arnold, Swinburne and others. At the close of the paper, remarks were elicited from Mr. MINERS, B.A., Mr. KINETON PARKES, B.A., and Dr. ALLEN; and a vote of thanks proposed by Miss CHARLES, B.Sc., and seconded by Miss LEAN, terminated the proceedings.

The annual business and society meeting was held in the Common Room on Tuesday, November 12th; Professor ARBER in the chair. A large number of members of the club and their friends were present. It had been originally intended to hold the meeting in the Examination Hall, but the impossibility of getting the piano up necessitated the holding of the meeting in the Common Room, the associations of which were, it is to be inferred, responsible for the spasmodic breaking out of "John Brown's Body" which took place at the back once or twice during the evening. The first business on the programme—the election of the new committee—resulted in the election of Misses BISHOP, CHARLES, EDWARDS, EHRHARDT, and LINDSAY, Dr. ALLEN, and Messrs. BAYLIS, BRANSON, LEDSAM, and MARTINEAU. The retiring committee's report, read by the Secretary, Mr. BRANSON, congratulated the Club on the encouraging increase in the number of members and the average attendance at meetings, but pointed out that there was room for improvement in the discussions and the number taking part in them. The falling through of the Poesy Club Prize this year was also deplored. This report having been accepted, the balance-sheet, read by the Treasurer, Miss EDWARDS, which showed a balance of £6 16s., was accepted. In this connection we may say that the annual subscription to this

flourishing club has been reduced to 1s., so that the magnitude of the subscription should not prevent any student of the College, to whatever department he may belong (for surely the study of poetry and the drama should interest science students no less than their fellow-students on the arts side), from becoming a member.

The business portion of the meeting was followed by an interesting programme of music, &c., rendered by members and friends. The programme was as follows :—

PART I.

Piano Solo ..... *Grieg.*
Miss GLYDON.
Song ..... "My Pretty Jane" ..... *Bishop.*
Mr. H. MACCARDIE.
Reading..... "Il Penseroso" and "L'Allegro"..... *Milton.*
Dr. ALLEN.
Piano Solo ..... "Aus dem Carneval"..... *Grieg.*
Miss J. PEARSON.
Song ..... "The Oak and the Ash"..... *Old English.*
Miss M. MACCARDIE.
Song..... "When the tide comes in"..... *Millard.*
Miss M. MACCARDIE.
Piano Solo ..... Rondo in E ..... *Weber.*
Miss ALSOP.
Song ..... "Only once more" .... *Tosti.*
Mr. S. W. AMPHLETT.

PART II.

COMEDIETTA - - - "APPLES."

Lady Roedale .....Miss BROOKS.
Betty.....Miss WOOD.
Claud Huntley .....Mr. A. W. HAINES.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The *Owens College Magazine* has once more its measure full of literary articles, of both merit and interest. Notes of travel, too, as heretofore, take a prominent place. "Grasmere Church"—English prize poem—is ingenious, imaginative, everything but graceful.

The *Central Literary Magazine* is interesting, even if something encyclopædic. "Art at Paris" and "The Lesson of the London Strike" are perhaps the most original articles.

The *Institute Magazine* with an article on "The Eve of St. Agnes," a note on "The Story of an African Farm," and a poem entitled "Onward," seems to be changing its style, till we turn over a few pages and find ourselves in the maze of Institute records.

Of school magazines the *Marlburian* and *King Edward's School Chronicle* are athletic, and uninteresting to outsiders, while the *School Magazine* (Uppingham) only just saves itself from the same description by some attempts at verse, and a page of "Additional Errata in the July number."

COLLEGE NOTES.

Many of the students will be glad to hear that they can purchase copies of the portrait of Professor Loreille, which is to be seen in the College office. Those wishing to possess a copy should give in their names to Mr. MOORE. We recommend the Committees of both Common Rooms to take this into their consideration.

Mr. PERCY GROOM, B.A., a former student and associate of the College, has been elected first occupant of the Professorship of Botany in the newly-founded University of Canton. We take this opportunity of offering him our congratulations and of wishing him a pleasant voyage and success in his undertaking.

The following is a list of the University successes won by students of the College during the past few months.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

JUNE MATRICULATION, 1889.

Honours Division	A. A. Brockington.	
First Division	J. W. Austin.	F. Hill.
	T. S. Bateman.	A. Lapworth.
	F. G. Eaden.	E. M. Punnett.

INTERMEDIATE ARTS.

Honours Division	W. A. Brockington, 1st Class in English, with the University Exhibition.
	J. Malins, 1st Class in English.
First Division	O. Jones.
Second Division	H. E. Mason.

INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE.

Honours Division	A. V. C. Fenby, 2nd Class in Experimental Physics, 3rd Class in Chemistry.	
	A. R. H. Ingram, 3rd Class in Experimental Physics.	
First Division	S. E. Bradley.	W. E. Dalby.
Second Division	H. Bishop.	E. D. Fridlander.

Honours Candidate recommended for a Pass—G. F. Butler.

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC.

Honours Division	K. M. Deane, 2nd Class in Zoology.	
	J. A. E. A. Lavery, 3rd Class in Zoology.	
First Division	* Jessie Bayliss.	* W. d' E. Emery.
	W. F. Blewitt.	Mary Lean.
	* Ethel Buller.	* W. Myers.
	C. H. Caldicott.	H. Sinigar.
	* J. E. Emanuel.	

* Also passed Mathematics of the Intermediate Examination in Science.

Honours Candidate recommended for a Pass—F. W. Chandler.
Passed in Two Subjects and completed the Examination—J. F. Woolley.
Passed in One Subject and completed the Examination—
W. A. Marris. E. A. B. Poole. T. Salt.

In the B.A. Examination the following have passed :—W. H. BAYLIS, JESSIE EDWARDS, E. E. SIMONS, C. W. K. WALLIS and F. MACSWINEY.

In the B.Sc. Examination the following have passed :—T. C. CANTRILL, A. J. COOPER, J. J. SUDBOROUGH, A. W. HAINES and A. T. SADLER.

The Examinations for Honours in connection with these exams are not yet over.

Mr. C. J. LAY, a former student at the College, was placed fifth in the list of Wranglers in the Mathematical Tripos of the University of Cambridge. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Mr. A. B. BADGER, B.A., who left the College some years ago for New College, Oxford, and who has since gained two first classes in the Science School at Oxford, has recently been appointed Demonstrator under the Professor of Geology in the University of Oxford. We congratulate him on his success and on his appointment.

We were pleased to hear that Miss NADEN gave a most interesting address to the Sociological Section of the Midland Natural History Society in Birmingham a short time ago. The meeting was held in the College Examination Hall, and was attended by many old students and a good proportion of the Professors of the College, who were glad to see Miss Naden quite recovered from her illness, and to listen once more to her lucid and skilful treatment of what might have been made a dull and uninteresting subject. We venture to hope that she will not forget the *Mason College Magazine*, which has owed so much to her in the past and which may hope still to reap a benefit from the store of knowledge the first principles of which were acquired within the College, however much the superstructure may have been added to by foreign travel and a wider experience.

We were pleased to hear that Miss ISABEL EVANS has also visited Birmingham for the sake of delivering a lecture. This was given in the schoolroom of the Old Meeting Church in Bristol Street, and dealt with her experiences in the New England village in which she stayed for the space of six months. The paper was bright and interesting, full of trifling details and experiences, for, as she warned her hearers, she had no stirring events or adventures to record. Many of us perhaps remember how well Miss EVANS could read, and did ; and when we hear many a good paper at our societies murdered in the reading—the thoughts which may have been penned by the writer with feelings of deepest interest,

perhaps even with a heaven-sent enthusiasm for his subject, failing to reach the brain, much less the heart of his hearers—we cannot but wish that her mantle had fallen on some at least of her successors.

The Dramatic Committee have fixed on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* for their dramatic performance, which is to take place on January 21st and 22nd, 1890. The cast comprises Misses EHRHARDT, JOHNSON and LLOYD-OWEN, Messrs. BROOKS, GREENE, HOWARD, JORDAN and others.

We understand that a meeting of students has been held with a view to again asking the sanction of the Council to the formation of an Athletic Association. We wish to express our sympathy with the students in this matter, and the hope that the Council, with the list of University honours before them, and the knowledge of the long hours and hard work of the majority of the students, may do all in their power to help on the athletic life of the College.

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published on Friday, December 20th. Contributions are urgently requested, and should be addressed to the Editor. Subscriptions, which are now due, should be paid to Mr. BAYLIS, B.A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FRENCH DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Dear Madam,—I should be glad if you would allow me a few lines of your valuable space. It may be remembered that Professor Loreille started the French Debating Society, and that he was greatly interested in its work. During the last year of his life at the College, however, he was so overworked that the F.D.S. almost dropped out of existence. Professor Morand, for the time being at the College, is anxious to revive this useful and instructive society. There was accordingly a meeting held last Wednesday, Nov. 13th, when Professor Morand read a very interesting paper on "Le Théâtre de Racine et de Voltaire," and Miss Martin and Miss Keep read extracts from Voltaire's "Zaïre." There was on that occasion, unfortunately, a very small attendance—perhaps because the students did not know of the meeting. May I take this opportunity of recommending this society, not only to the French students, but to all interested in the work of the College, and of asking them to give us their sympathy and help, not merely by a passive attendance at the meetings, but by active help?

I am, dear madam,

Yours truly,

M. J. K.

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THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

DECEMBER, 1889.

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Mason College Magazine.

(Conducted by Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

No. 2, Vol. VIII. **DECEMBER, 1889.** Price 6d.

CALENDAR.

January 21.—Spring Term commences.
" 21 & 22.—Dramatic Performance of "Twelfth Night."
" 28.—Poesy Club Meeting.
" 31.—Union.

EDITORIAL.

We shall not be able, much though we might wish, to salute our readers, one and all, on the morning of Wednesday next, by means of the customary Christmas Card. We therefore gratefully avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded us by the pages of the Magazine, of wishing our fellow-students in general, and our readers in particular, in the language of Ye Merrie Schoole-boy, "A grand old Christmas, and a jolly New Year."

One-third of the Session's journey traversed is a good step towards the end; one-third of the College Examinations safely concluded is so much torture survived; we hope also this means one-third of the Session's work successfully performed.

As it is probable that our readers will observe a slight change in the character of our reports, lest they should conclude that the whole Editorial Board is indulging in a splenetic vein of wanton discontent, we hasten to inform them that still, as of old, we are swayed by the desire for the general welfare. We feel that we do not sufficiently appreciate and avail ourselves of the priceless opportunities afforded us of giving and receiving friendly criticism. With the pathetic wail of an old student ringing in our ears—"The world as it is is so different from the world as it looked from the interior of Mason College"—we resolve that we will have no part in the cruel operation of turning out students into the world who, like spoilt children, expecting to receive from their fellows the same homage they have exacted from their family, believe that every attempt at public speaking, however unsatisfactory, will be indulgently lauded, and every effort, however crude and clumsy, at literary work, "thankfully received."

A SCENIC ARTIST OF THE 17th CENTURY.

There lived in the reign of James I. a little company of men whose mutual relationship was somewhat similar to that existing at the present day between Gilbert, Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte. Foremost among the group stands the name of Ben Jonson, while of the others the name of one sounds strangely familiar, though little is known generally about the man himself. I refer to Inigo Jones. Ben Jonson, the poet, Inigo Jones, the machinist and general stage-manager, Alphonso Ferrabosco, the musical composer, together presented before King James and his Court some of the most graceful and magnificent shows ever exhibited on any stage.

Inigo Jones's skill as a contriver of the mechanical part of the masque was exhibited in a yet loftier form in his work as an architect, and some account of his life and occupation may not be entirely devoid of interest to the reader.

Cunningham gives the following facts of Jones's life:—Inigo Jones, the son of Inigo Jones, a cloth-maker of the parish of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, was born in 1573. Of his early life nothing is known with certainty; he was probably bound apprentice to a joiner, whence he gained that knowledge of machinery and carpentering which he afterwards turned to such good account. He was early distinguished by his inclination for drawing or designing, and by his skill in the art of landscape painting. He was sent, it is supposed by one of the great lords at Court, to Italy to study landscape painting; but he says of himself—"Being naturally inclined in my younger years to study the arts of design, I passed into foreign parts to converse with the great masters thereof in Italy, where I applied myself to search out the ruins of those ancient buildings which, in despite of time itself and violence of barbarians, are yet remaining. Having satisfied myself in these, and retiring to my native country, I applied my mind more particularly to architecture."

There is still preserved at Chiswick a small landscape from Inigo's hands, "the colouring of which," says Walpole, "is very indifferent, but the trees freely and masterly imagined." A list of buildings partly designed by him will be given further on.

"Inigo Jones was," writes his biographer, "architect-general unto four mighty kings, two heroic queens, and that illustrious and never to be forgotten prince, Henry." He spent some

years in Denmark, then under the government of Christianus IV., though the nature of his employment there is unknown. He is said to have assisted in building part of the palace of Fredericksborg, and the principal court bears a marked resemblance to the court of Heriot's Hospital, in Edinburgh, which is attributed to him.

Inigo makes his first public appearance in England at the performance of the "Masque of Blackness," on Twelfth Night, 1604-5. Jonson, who was always ready with his tribute to the merit of his co-worker, says "the bodily part was of Master Inigo Jones's design and act." The poet's description of Inigo's portion of the work deserves to be read, both because it is the earliest notice we possess of the use of scenery in stage entertainments, and because it affords an excellent example of the graceful, vigorous prose of which Jonson had such mastery.

The cost of this masque was about £10,000 of our present money, and we can well believe that the reign of James I. was the most festive of all reigns for the Court.

Jonson and Jones worked together in the masque of "Hymen" (1605-6), and Jonson reports "The design and act together with the devices and their habits belong properly to the merit and reputation of Master Inigo Jones, whom I take modest occasion in their fit place to remember, lest his own worth might accuse me of an ignorant neglect for my silence."

An eye-witness writes, "Both Inigo, Ben, and the actors, men and women, did their parts with great commendation."

It is of interest to note that in this reign we read of women-actors for the first time, and it is highly probable that the example was set by Queen Anne and her Ladies of Honour who took part in the masques at Court.

Inigo Jones assisted Jonson in the masques, "The Hue and Cry after Cupid" (1608), and "Masque of Queens" (1608). Of the latter Ben writes, "The device of the witches' attire was Jones's with the invention and architecture of the whole scene and machine, only I prescribed them their properties of vipers, snakes, bones, herbs, roots and other ensigns of their magic out of the authority of ancient and late writers, wherein the faults are mine, if there be any."

In 1610 Jonson and Jones each received £40 for the masque entitled "Love freed from Ignorance and Folly." In the same year Jones together with Samuel Daniel set forth the masque "Tethys' Festival," which formed part of the Court

entertainment at the festivities attending the elevation of the King's eldest son Henry, to the Princedom of Wales; and in 1612 Jones assisted Chapman in a masque to celebrate the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth and the Palsgrave. About this time, too, he obtained the appointment of Surveyor of the Works in the household of the young Prince, an employment which he retained but a very short time, owing to Prince Henry's untimely death.

After the death of the Prince of Wales Inigo started on his second visit to Italy, making copious memoranda wherever he went, and there is still preserved at Worcester College, Oxford, his copy of Palladio, with numerous entries on the fly-leaf, such as, "The length of the great court at Windsor is 350 feet, the breadth 260; this I measured by paces, the 5 Dec., 1619.

In 1615 Inigo returned to England to succeed Simon Basil as Surveyor of the Works, an office the reversion of which had been granted to him by the King. His time was now fully occupied. Our Kings had many palaces and manor-houses, and would frequently go on "progresses" from house to house, with the Court. The Surveyor would either ride to superintend repairs, or return home to devise fresh alterations, or inspect work already begun. To Inigo, in 1619, fell even the mournful duty of preparing the hearse for the Queen's funeral.

In 1619 we have evidence of the first quarrel between Inigo and Ben. Drummond of Hawthornden reports of Ben that "he said to Prince Charles of Inigo Jones, that when he wanted to express the greatest villain in the world, he would call him 'ane Inigo;'" but all who have with true justice studied the character of Ben Jonson may easily imagine that the words were accompanied by a sly twinkle of the eye, which would be quite lost upon the staid Laird of Hawthornden.

On January 12, 1618, the old Banqueting Hall at Whitehall was burnt, and Inigo was ordered to erect a new building of the same character on the same site. In less than six months the ground was cleared and the designs ready, and the first stone of the new Banqueting Hall laid; at the same time he was employed in drawing up a plan to plant and reduce to uniformity Lincoln's Inn Fields.

In 1620 Jones was sent for from the house of the Earl of Pembroke, and received his Majesty's commands to produce, out of his own practice in architecture and experience in antiquities, whatever he could possibly discover concerning

Stonehenge. The result of his enquiries was published in a folio volume after his death.

About this time, too, he designed the Chapel at Lincoln's Inn, a piece of well-proportioned Gothic, the Chapel of the Infanta at Somerset House and the beautiful watergate to the town house of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

Inigo Jones seems to have returned now to his own old employment, for the last three masques witnessed by James were the joint productions of Jonson and Jones. The last of these masques, "Chloridia," was at the same time the last represented before Charles I. and the occasion of the final rupture of the friendship between the two old colleagues.

In a letter from Mr. Pory to Sir J. Pickering, written later, we read, "The inventor of the King's masque was Mr. A. Townshend, Ben Jonson being for this time discarded by reason of the predominant power of his antagonist Inigo Jones, who this time twelve-months was angry with him for putting his own name before his in the title page, which Ben Jonson has made the subject of a bitter satire or two against Inigo."

Jones wanted, as Jonson says, to be the Dominus-Do-all-of-the-work and to engross all of the praise; and Ben hits off this characteristic in a few lines in his comedy "The Tale of a Tub":—

MED: I have a little knowledge in design
Which I can vary, sir, to infinito.
TUB: Ad infinitum, sir, you mean.
MED: I do.
I stand not on my Latin: I'll invent,
But I must be alone then, joined with no man.

As Jonson retired from Court, Inigo introduced in his place new poets viz.:—Townshend, Carew, Shirley, Heywood and Sir W. Davenant.

Meanwhile Jonson, old, in ill health and neglected, was preparing an "expostulation with Inigo," or, as he on another occasion calls him, Iniquo Jones. Jonson laughs at Inigo's velvet suit, and exclaims sarcastically—

"Painting and carpentry are the Soul of Masque;"

and rails at—

"Thy twice-conceived, thrice-paid-for imagery."

Meanwhile, in his capacity as architect, Jones was engaged upon the Great West Portico of Old St. Paul's and the Queen's House at Greenwich. In the case of the former he has been

accused of placing a Classic portico before a Gothic Cathedral; but it is to be remembered that it was probably not as part of Old St. Paul's that he designed this magnificent west front, but as an instalment of a new building. Through offence given to the parishioners of St. Gregory by the proposed removal of the Church of St. Gregory by St. Paul's, his work of reconstruction was brought to a standstill. In the reign of Charles II. Webb rebuilt a portion of the old palace to the west of the Queen's House, from the design of Jones, and the same portion was introduced by Wren into the general arrangement of Greenwich Hospital.

Other works upon which Jones was employed are the great square or piazza of Covent Garden, a chapel in Covent Garden, a front at Wilton, the middle part of each end of the quadrangle at St. John's College, Oxford, Cobham Hall, in Kent, Coleshill, in Berkshire the seat of Lord Ashburton, a gate at Oatlands, a gate at Holland House Kensington; while others of a more doubtful character are Albins in Essex, Charlton House in Kent, Amesbury in Wiltshire, Chevening in Kent, a front to Castle Ashby in Northamptonshire, Chilham Castle, and an arch near Broadway. In his folio were found many unfinished drawings and plans, including ceiling of Countess of Pembroke's bed-chamber, ceiling of Countess Carnarvon's with drawing-room, wainscot and moulds for the consultation-room at Physicians' College, with designs for temples, churches, fountains and piazzas.

The Chapel for the parishioners of Covent Garden was the last of Inigo's works, for though he lived fourteen years longer his attention was taken from the lighter amusement of the masques and the peaceful employment of architecture to the enthralling interest of the civil wars, and he was himself taken with arms in his hand at the siege of Basing. He was imprisoned and fined, and in order to preserve the money he had saved was forced to bury it with his own hand in Lambeth Marsh. He had survived most of his old friends, and had seen a king walk to the block through that very banqueting hall where he had so often helped in the exhibition of masques for his entertainment, and, full of sorrow and anxiety, he died in 1652.

A monument of white marble, for which he left the sum of £100, and which marked his grave, was totally destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

Inigo Jones's personal appearance is preserved for us in the portrait of Vandyck, a very good engraving of which appears in the frontispiece of Cunningham's Life of Jones, from which this sketch is mainly taken.

Vandyck says of the skill of Inigo in designing: "It is not to be equalled by whatsoever great masters of his time for boldness, softness, sweetness and sureness of his touches."

In the above-mentioned Life of Jones are to be found a collection of curious sketches from the hand of Inigo, illustrating different characters as they were represented upon the stage in his day. They include the characters of Robert Ket, the tanner, Knipperdoling, Morris-dancer, Torchbearer, Damsel, Dwarf, Giant, Tooth-drawer, Corn-cutter and Mountebank.

With regard to Jones's work as an architect the reader is referred to the article on Architecture in the Encyclopœdia Britannica.

Of Palladian style he was complete master, and the structure of the Banqueting House is an epitome of many of the faults and most of the beauties of the Palladian School, so that he has been not unfitly termed the "English Palladio."

THOMAS HOOD.

(A Paper Read at the Poesy Club, December 10th).

It is interesting to reflect on the difference, both qualitative and quantitative, we might be obliged to make in our estimation of various great men, had they been able always to follow their own artistic inclinations, and not been compelled by circumstances, pecuniary or otherwise, to follow paths in which they would not of themselves have chosen to walk.

It is well-known that many celebrated men, despising even reputations they have actually won, have felt that they would have excelled in some other pursuits for which, may be, people generally have not been over ready to allow their aptitude. The question becomes merged in the larger one of the influence of mundane circumstances on the character and works of great men. Undoubtedly the conditions of Thomas Hood's life had very much to do with the aspect presented by his collected works. Probably our first impression with regard to his work is that he was a writer of comic verse; and, after consideration, we add—he also wrote some serious poems. This

impression of Hood, so superficial as to be erroneous, would probably never have been the one likely to be made by his works had he always been at liberty to choose for himself when he should write, and on what subject he should exercise his skill. Hood wrote literally for his daily bread. For the support of his family and himself he was obliged to turn out so much "copy" in the course of twelve months. A master of punning and an easy writer of verse he found it most easy and profitable to work the vein of comicality that was in him, while only occasionally, and at his leisure, could he turn to more serious and perhaps more congenial methods and subjects. Hence the mass of comic poetry associated with his name. Those to whom his composition is distasteful may perhaps extend forgiveness to Hood on the ground of the necessity I have mentioned, while to others these writings may seem even to enhance Hood's reputation. With the latter class I am fain to rank myself.

To some the words "comic poetry" may seem an incompatible expression. It may be questioned whether poetry being in its highest development a noble and a lofty art, can with any propriety have its machinery adapted to circumstances comic in nature, and therefore not elevating. Should not all poetry be elevating, or at least instructive and edifying? But to this it may be answered that there can after all be no hard and fast line; no one would assert that a certain amount of humour was fatal to the poetic spirit—on the contrary, that quality illuminates the works of some of our greatest poets.

From humour to wit, and from wit to comicality we pass by easy and indefinable stages. If we allow a humourous poem we find ourselves confronted by a witty poem, and our right to exclude the comic poem from acceptance is difficult to maintain. It reminds one of the old difficulty that ever crops up in science. Science is ever demanding classification; nature as continually rendering strict classification impossible. Scarcely has Science drawn the separating line apparently rigidly between two forms in nature, when nature springs upon her a form in which those two seem to melt together, and for which Science can find no place in her classification. Poetry is an art based not on scientific laws, and we cannot rigidly classify and say—this, being comic, is not poetry. The difficulty of classification is well illustrated by Hood's poems, for while some are nothing but comic and others serious to a degree,

there are undoubtedly some on the border line which it would be puzzling to have to place in either group. If it be unworthy of a poet to be humourous, it is a fault which many have committed. Tennyson, Browning and Southey may in some of their poems shake hands with Hood. If Cowper takes credit for "John Gilpin," certainly Hood may for "The Epping Hunt." I am therefore catholic in my acceptance of poetical works, and am prepared to reckon in my estimation of Hood as a poet his decidedly comic poems.

The story of Hood's life is one of hard work and family devotion. He started in life at an early age as an engraver, but finding his health failing was sent to Scotland for a time. It was in Dundee that he made his very first appearance in print. We have little record of these earlier efforts, except that he wrote a sort of rhyming description of Dundee, after the manner of Anstey's Bath Guide. Returning to London in 1821, Hood, who was then 22 years of age, was appointed a sort of sub-editor of the "London Magazine," the same, by the way, to which the Essays of Elia were for the most part contributed. Hood's duties were to read, correct and prepare for the press papers sent in for publication. He added to these duties, however, by writing "Answers to Correspondents," under the title "The Lion's Head," and in a short time poems and articles by him found their way into the body of the magazine. Partly owing to his connection with this magazine, Hood at this time became acquainted with many of the leading literary men of the day, Lamb, Proctor, Talfourd, Hartley Coleridge, Hazlitt, Allan Cunningham, Horace Smith, and especially John Hamilton Reynolds, whose sister Hood married in 1824. This union was an eminently happy one, Mrs. Hood being a woman of cultivated mind and literary tastes, and a suitable, and, as time went on, indispensable companion for Hood. About the time of his marriage was published "Odes and Addresses to Great People," written by Hood in conjunction with J. H. Reynolds. This consisted of some 16 odes, apostrophizing The Great Unknown, Joseph Grimaldi, Mrs. Fry, Elliston, Mr. McAdam, &c. The volume appeared anonymously, and it is interesting to know that S. T. Coleridge wrote to Charles Lamb accusing him most positively of having written the odes, and praising them warmly.

Hood's connection with the London Magazine ceased in 1824, but he continued to contribute to other magazines, and

in 1827 published a volume containing "The Plea of the Midsummer Fairies," and other poems. In this year also appeared the second series of "Whims and Oddities," the first series having been published previously. In 1828 he published "National Tales," a collection of short stories, mostly of a transpontine and blood-curdling description, and absolutely unrelieved by any touch of the comicality or humour natural to their author. Neither these nor the poems met with much success. In 1829, Hood edited an annual called "The Gem," and to it contributed his poem "Eugene Aram." He also wrote in this year "The Epping Hunt."

It is about this time that we begin to hear of Hood's health failing. He appears to have had rheumatic fever shortly after his marriage, and now from time to time had much illness. In 1830 he began the "Comic Annual," and for the next nine years this comprised almost his whole work, the exceptions being a few contributions to the *Athenæum*, of which the "Ode to Rae Wilson" stands out pre-eminent as one of Hood's most brilliant poems.

In 1834 the failure of a publishing firm threw Hood into financial difficulties. Resolved, however, honourably to clear off his debts, he started for the Continent, determined by extra labour and economy, to enable himself to do so. On the voyage out he was exposed to peril in the great storm of 1835, and from the fatigue and exhaustion thus caused he was some-time in recovering. From this time forward, indeed, his health seems to have been gradually and progressively giving way.

In 1839 appeared "Up the Rhine," the most successful of his publications in volume form. Unfortunately he did not reap the full benefit he might have done from this, as in his absence his publishers defrauded him, and he was obliged to go to the trouble and expense of a law-suit.

In 1840 he returned to England on account of the increasing frequency of the attacks of blood-spitting to which he was liable. He had been engaged to write articles for the New Monthly Magazine, to which in 1839 he had contributed his wonderful poem, "Miss Kilmansegg and her Golden Leg," and he stuck to his work.

In 1841 he was appointed editor of that Magazine, succeeding Theodore Hook, deceased. The editorship of this Magazine he retained till 1844, contributing to it many striking articles both in prose and poetry.

About this time Hood became an occasional contributor to *Punch*, and therein appeared in the extra Christmas number for 1841, the celebrated "Song of the Shirt." In 1844 "Hood's Magazine" was commenced, and involved the author in more work than ever. He was writing for this, dictating articles in the intervals of hæmorrhage till 1845, when he died in harness, leaving unfinished, in fact, only just begun, a novel, "Our Family," which promised to be one of the greatest and most characteristic of his works.

Hood's character, as discovered in his life, is that of a hard worker and devoted husband and parent; intensely sympathetic moreover: full of energy: in spite of his solemn face, always ready with some jest: never permitting himself to despair in the face of reverses or disaster: ever cheerful when most oppressed by disease. A man of true religious feeling, he had an intense hatred of all false religion and cant. A lady of obstrusive religious opinions once wrote him a letter, in which she made a most unjustifiable attack on his writings and religious opinions, inquiring, with a sort of grim satisfaction, what good his "Whims and Oddities" would do his soul, and how he would recall his levities in literature upon his death-bed. Hood was roused to a reply which must have crushed his assailant, if such people can be crushed. He was respected and beloved by a large circle of friends, including Charles Lamb and his sister, Monckton Milnes, Charles Dickens, Barry Cornwall and many others. In November, 1844, a pension of £100 per annum was, through the medium of Sir Robert Peel, bestowed on Mrs. Hood, Hood's own life being felt to be far too precarious a tenure. On the 18th July, 1854, a monument to his memory, erected by public subscription, was unveiled in Kensal Green Cemetery, where his body lies. These facts indicate the estimation in which Hood was held by some, at least, of his contemporaries.

We may now consider more in detail the works which have been barely mentioned in this sketch of the life and literary career of Hood just given.

The Odes and Addresses, Hood's first work, are characterised by all their author's wit and judgment, and by an utter absence of anything unpleasantly personal. Coleridge, writing to Lamb of them says:—"Charles, it is *you*. I have read them over again, and I understand why you have anon'd the book. The puns are nine in ten good, many excellent, the *Newgatory*

transcendant! And then the *exemplum sine exemplo* of a volume of personalities, and contemporaneities, without a single line that could inflict the infinitesimal of an unpleasance on any man in his senses—saving and except perhaps in the envy-addled brain of the despiser of your *lays*. If not a triumph over him, it is at least an ovation. Then, moreover and besides, to speak with becoming modesty, excepting my own self, who is there but you who could write the musical lines and stanzas that are intermixed?"

The volume published by Hood in 1827 contained "The Plea of the Midsummer Fairies," "Hero and Leander," "Lycus the Centaur," "Ode to the Moon," "Ode to Melancholy," and some minor poems. Of these most were re-published; the "Plea," however, appeared for the first time. Its want of success must be attributed to the lack of human interest in it, and to the allegorical nature of its incidents. It is professedly a tribute to the genius of Shakespeare, and a thank offering to him for his rescue from oblivion of Puck, Titania and fairy personifications generally. The poem opens with the dismay of Titania at a vision she has had of Time, who, she feels sure, is threatening destruction to her race. Even while she is communicating her fears to her subjects, Time enters.

> "Gaunt was he as a wolf of Languedoc,
> With bloody jaws, and frost upon his crown;
> So from his barren poll one hoary lock
> Over his wrinkled front fell far adown,
> Well nigh to where his frosty brows did frown
> Like jagged icicles at cottage eaves;
> And for his coronal he wore some brown
> And bristled ears gathered from Ceres' sheaves,
> Entwined with certain sere and russet leaves."

Then divers elves and fays appeal to the dread spectre to spare their lives. But Time repels all entreaties, having, indeed, a direct antipathy to all the arguments of the Fays, and is about to execute his threat, when the apparition of Shakespeare renders his arm powerless, and finally puts him to flight. The homage of the rescued elves to their preserver closes the story. There can be no doubt that this is a fine poem, it is rich in passages of great beauty and poetic imagination: the verse, as may have been gathered, is stately, melodious, and fitting the theme: the language scholarly, and at times seeming to betray the influence of him to whose honour the poem was written.

"Hero and Leander" and "Lycus the Centaur" are founded on classical subjects. The story of the former is familiar. Hood treats it, perhaps at too great length, but poetically. Here his familiarity with Shakespeare's poetry seems to me strikingly illustrated. The argument of the latter poem is as follows. Lycus, detained by Circe in her magical dominion, is beloved by a water-nymph, Aegle, who, desiring to render him immortal, has recourse to the sorceress. Circe gives her an incantation to pronounce which should turn Lycus into a horse; but the horrible effect of the charm causing her to break off in the midst, he becomes a Centaur. This poem, written in an unusual anapaestic measure, contains a powerful description of the enchanted realm of Circe, with its spellbound inhabitants: as well as of the effect of the incantation upon Lycus.

Besides these more sustained efforts, Hood continually contributed short lyrical poems to various publications. Many of these are of great beauty, nearly all evince the taste and poetic feeling of their author, and scarcely one is worthless. Considering the usual character of such fugitive pieces and the little temptation to put much real work into them, the fact that Hood's reputation is distinctly advanced by them is a tribute alike to his genius and his self-respect. One of the most beautiful is fairly well-known, though perhaps not always credited to Hood; I mean the "Death Bed." "Ruth" may serve further to exemplify these pieces. "Eugene Aram" is scarcely a minor poem. It is too well-known to need repetition, but must be mentioned as a reminder of Hood's capabilities of powerful melo-dramatic writing.

The two series of "Whims and Oddities" and the "Comic Annuals" include the great majority of Hood's comic poems, those by which he is perhaps best known, and in which department of literature his eminence is never questioned. These are far from being all similar, on the contrary they are in themselves the most striking example of Hood's "infinite variety." Some depend for their effect on pun succeeding pun, their narrative being so slight that but for the brilliance of these puns they would be nothing. But in others there is no pun from first to last, and the comic element is sometimes even subordinated to the weird and fantastic. And again there are poems, as hinted at before, which defy classification, and indeed seem in themselves to exemplify all the varying phases of Hood's character. In the slightest, in the most comic, in the wildest of them his verse

is always alike flowing and graceful, his rhymes ready and suitable. Some of these lighter poems are in spirit not unlike Praed's verses, but Hood copied no one, and thought and style are with him original. As a punster he is *facile princeps* of authors, at any rate, I can recall no one who can claim to dispossess him of this title.

There are many other poems of Hood's on which I might dwell, "The Haunted House," "The Elm Tree," &c., but before passing on to the final group I shall consider, I will only pause at one—the Ode to Rae Wilson. It is a specimen of satirical poetry which in force and point may compare with the best of its class. Rae Wilson was one who assailed Hood on what the latter felt to be the most private matter, his religion, and made various strictures on the tone of his writings. How Hood replied may be judged from the following extract:—

"I do confess that I abhor and shrink
From schemes, with a religious willy-nilly,
That frown upon St. Giles's sins, but blink
The peccadilloes of all Piccadilly—
My soul revolts at such a bare hypocrisy,
And will not, dare not, fancy in accord
The Lord of Hosts with an exclusive Lord
Of this world's aristocracy.

It will not own a notion so unholy,
As thinking that the rich by easy trips,
May go to heaven, whereas the poor and lowly
Must work their passage, as they do in ships.
One place there is—beneath the burial sod,
Where all mankind are equalised by Death:
Another place there is—the Fane of God,
Where all are equal, who draw living breath:—
Juggle who will *elsewhere* with his own soul,
Playing the Judas with a temporal dole—
He who can come beneath that awful cope,
In the dread presence of a Maker just,
Who metes to ev'ry pinch of human dust
One even measure of immortal hope—
He who can stand within that holy door,
With soul unbowed by that pure spirit-level,
And frame unequal laws for rich and poor,—
Might sit for Hell, and represent the Devil."

This ode, in its appreciation of the true and hatred of the false, has something of a kindred spirit with the group of poems which now remain for consideration. They are all animated by the same spirit, that of sympathy with human suffering, and sorrow for "man's inhumanity to man." They are "The

Pauper's Christmas Carol," "The Song of the Shirt," "The Lady's Dream," "The Lay of the Labourer," "The Bridge of Sighs," and with them may be included as similar in design and feeling, though different in execution—"Miss Kilmansegg." It is noticeable that all these poems were published during the last three years of Hood's life; and we may, I think, trace an evident connection between the story of that life with its gradually increasing burden in the shape of disease, and the progressive development of his sympathy for others. In his earliest works we find little trace of this. Classical and fantastic subjects form the basis of his serious works of that time. Later on, however, we find him blazing out in honest wrath in the "Ode to Rae Wilson," and just before the premature close of his career, we find his developed sympathies giving rise to "The Song of the Shirt," &c., at a time when he himself was feeling the heavy hand of a disease which was so soon to overcome him. His powers, indeed, ripened to the last, and had he been spared, some even greater work would assuredly have enriched our literature.

"The most original, forcible and curious poetic mind that blossomed out in the new generation which first succeeded that of Byron and his fellow workers—Thomas Hood." These words I find in an article on "Modern British Poetry," in Macmillan's Magazine, for March, 1876, over the signature, W. M. Rossetti. To have induced you to endorse to some extent this dictum will be to have succeeded in my task to-night. Before parting from Thomas Hood, let us review the qualities displayed in his manifold poetic works.

First of all, we may recollect the versatility of his mind. We have followed him from poems whose only object was to make us laugh, to poems whose only object seems to be to draw our tears. Every variety and phase of thought must have found illustration from Hood. This true versatility of mind, as distinct from a mere capacity for faithful portraiture of different types, must, I think, be admitted to be a characteristic of genius.

Of Hood's merits as regards form enough has already been said to show that in the important particular of musical and appropriate language for the conveyance of his thoughts he was worthy to rank with even greater poets than himself. The melodious and stately measure of "The Plea of the Midsummer Fairies," and the flowing verse of the lyrics alike attest this. I have heard Hood referred to as "sometimes vulgar." Whether

thought or style were accused, I know not; but in either case, I take upon myself to deny the accusation which I have failed to find justified, after a study of his works, probably more careful and complete than that of most now present.

So far from vulgarity, I should say that many of Hood's works are in tone decidedly scholarly. Some of the poems already mentioned display this, while it is evident in another, "Lamia"—a tragic fragment—and in many scattered instances through his works.

I have already proclaimed Hood the prince of punsters. Those who agree with Dr. Johnson in his dictum concerning punning, will assert that in giving this title I am damaging my cause. But the worthy doctor was sometimes mistaken, even on occasions when his utterances were more considered. So that even this quality may perhaps increase, rather than diminish, our author's reputation. One thing we may notice, that Hood's puns do not consist of that senseless word-torturing which stands for punning in our modern burlesques—so-called —doubtless on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle

Wit and humour are distinct qualities, and much ingenuity has been expended in attempting to define and separate them. Usually, however, the task is in the end evaded, and wherever possible by associating the two words is rendered unnecessary. Wit is perhaps more brilliant and less sustained than humour, it flashes for a moment and then goes out. It is like a succession of rockets on a dark night. Humour is quieter and more sedate; it is not wholly out of place at solemn times, when wit would be frowned upon. It burns with a steady illuminating light, like the moon on a frosty night, making all the ground sparkle. If evidence of both wit and humour in Hood has not been found in the readings you have heard to-night, I can only regret the inadequacy of my selections, and refer you to his collected works where I feel sure you will satisfy yourselves on both heads.

I have also attempted in my readings to illustrate the sympathy of Hood's nature, his feeling for human sorrow and suffering, his appreciation of true efforts for their relief, and his hatred of cant and hypocrisy, and of those who, under the cloak of religion, turned aside the resources of charity from the poor and needy in order that they might have the means to interfere with people whose goodness did not wear the same uniform as their own. The man who wrote the "Song of the

Shirt" was a true and practical, and, I am glad to be able to say, successful philanthropist. The man who wrote "Miss Kilmansegg" was a social philosopher, and the author of the ode to Rae Wilson, a practical moralist, whose heart was emphatically in the right place, and whose influence could not but be for good. Nor was he much less a benefactor to the race who, by countless comicalities, brightened the homes of thousands with the purest and most harmless merriment.

Speaking to you as individuals, I have no fear in holding out to you Thomas Hood as a man to be admired for moral qualities of the highest nature. Speaking to you as members of a literary club—the capacity in which I trust I have not forgotten that I address you to-night—I do not shrink from presenting to you, as a worthy model, one whom I hope I may, to some extent, have brought you to believe to be "the most original, forcible and curious poetic mind that blossomed out in the new generation which first succeeded that of Byron and his fellow-workers—Thomas Hood."

THE UNION.

November 22nd.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair. The evening was devoted to a Literary Competition, in which Mr. Howard upheld the superiority of Dickens, and Mr. Miners, B.A., that of Thackeray.

Mr. HOWARD, in opening, deprecated the necessity of prefacing his extracts from the novelist's works by any words of his own, and proceeded to deliver his remarks in a half-hearted fashion, which successfully concealed the genuine appreciation of Dickens, the possession of which on his part was afterwards manifested by his judicious selection of extracts. He dealt briefly with Dickens' life. Dickens was born near Portsmouth in 1812, and, thongh at first destined for the law, soon left it for a literary career, in which he began as a reporter. His two first works were "Sketches by Boz" in 1835, and the "Pickwick Papers." These were sufficient to establish his reputation as an author, and were only the fore-runners of a long series of novels. For elaborate description and word-painting, Mr. Howard considered that Charles Dickens had never been excelled, and that in characteristic truth to nature he stood unrivalled. His heroes and heroines were not imaginary creatures, but men and women with whose afflictions we could sympathise, whose happiness we could appreciate, and whose moral courage we might imitate. His works were full of fun, beneath which lay a warmth of feeling, a continued elevation and respect to virtue, a cutting sarcasm against vice and folly, at once unique and artistic. Dickens organised a crusade against many of the crying evils of his day, and his works on that account should be remembered. As an author he was thorough, and the stories of his generosity and goodness were endless. Dickens was also famed as a reader of his own works, and had lectured in Birmingham on more than one occasion.

In accordance with the plan pursued at our Literary Competitions, Mr. MINERS then rose to make his introductory remarks with reference to

Thackeray, and gave a brief outline of the novelist's life, which, owing to the clear and audible style in which he delivered it as much as its intrinsic excellence, afforded the greatest pleasure to his hearers. Thackeray was born in Calcutta in 1811, and came to England with his mother in his seventh year. At the Charter-house School he delighted his schoolfellows with the caricatures of the people they saw, and his comic illustrations of the narratives contained in his lesson books. He went from Charter-house to Trinity College, Cambridge, and afterwards went abroad, spending a good deal of time in Paris and visiting Weimar. He contributed to Frazer's Magazine. Speaking of "Vanity Fair," Mr. Miners said that the book was still considered his masterpiece. Some were apt to view Thackeray harshly because of this novel, and say, "Well, if the world is as bad as it is made out to be here, and the specimens of its best characters are so mediocre, I would rather not be in it." Mr. Miners considered, however, that bearing in mind that Thackeray wrote of the world of 1846 and not that of 1889, he drew a faithful reflection from life. In 1850 "Pendennis" appeared, the name of which was taken from Pendennis Castle at Falmouth, and Mr. Miners devoted some time to a comparison between points in the characters in the novel, which might be considered as having something similar to the characteristic points of Pendennis Castle. A finer fruit of Thackeray's study of the essayists of the 18th century, than his "Lecture on the Humourists," was his historical novel "Esmond." The style of thought and expression of the classical writers of the Augustan period of English Literature was caught by the 19th century historian, in his delineation of the person of Richard Steele, intelligent, yet boisterous, of the Duke of Marlboro', the Young Pretender, and of a Court Beauty of the time. When Thackeray lectured in Birmingham on "The Four Georges" he was a tall, substantial, elderly gentleman, in gold-rimmed glasses, with silvery gray hair, and a clean shaven face. His utterance was deliberate and pleasant to listen to. He was educated all round. He had a high opinion of women. He wrote so as to instruct and elevate, and Mr. Miners held him up to his hearers' affection and admiration, to the out-rivalling of every other novelist.

After the applause had ceased, Mr. HOWARD called upon Mr. W. R. Jordan, M.B. to read the account of Sydney Carton's execution from "The Tale of Two Cities." Mr. JORDAN'S quiet style admirably suited the tragic intensity of the piece, which was listened to in appreciative silence by his hearers, who experienced somewhat of a shock when Mr. MINERS, at its conclusion, proceeded to read very indifferently, the chapter entitled "How to live well on nothing a year," from *Vanity Fair*. The transition from the wonderful pathos and elevation of feeling penetrating the extract from Dickens, to the ultra-worldliness with which Mr. Miner's selection bristled, was too sudden to be pleasant.

Mr. HOWARD, having in his first extract illustrated Dickens' pathetic or tragic vein, next called upon Professor Hillhouse to read the description of 'Private Theatres' from the "Sketches by Boz," as an illustration of the humorous side of his works. This, Professor HILLHOUSE read capitally, doing full justice to the comicality of the description.

Mr. MINERS' next extract was "A Chapter out of the *Spectator*" from 'Esmond,' which illustrated the cleverness with which Thackeray could imitate Steele's style. This was read by Miss. F. EHRHARDT, hardly

loud enough, or slow enough, for distinctness, a fault doubtless arising from nervousness, on her first appearance before the Union. It was followed by the description of the shipwreck, from "David Copperfield," which Mr. HOWARD chose, as an example of Dickens' pictorial power. To this description Mr. Howard did ample justice.—Mr. MINERS finally read the chapter entitled "Two or Three Acts out of a little Comedy" from the "Newcomes," into the spirit of which he failed to enter.

The vote of the meeting being taken, resulted in 54 votes for Dickens, and 17 votes for Thackeray.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. BROOKS, and seconded by Dr. J. F. JORDAN, to Mr. Howord and Mr. Miners, for the trouble they had taken in preparing such an agreeable evening for the Union; and was unanimously carried.

Miss Tilley was elected a member of the Society.

A meeting was held on Friday, *December 6th*, Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.

Mr. MARTINEAU gave a very interesting account of a three weeks' tour in Norway. He related how, accompanied by an old college friend, he embarked on the "Eldorado" in July last for the land of snowfields, glaciers, and fjords. After staying for a time in the harbour of Stavanger, which is the principal seat of the herring fisheries, they proceeded further northwards, and, threading their way among the numerous islands which fringe the coast, landed at Bergen. Here they obtained their first view of Norway, with its "grey rocks tinged with a faint pink in the light of the brilliant sun." Bergen lies in the hollow formed by seven high hills, and boasts of an annual rainfall of 72 inches. The town is laid out in blocks, separated from one another by large squares, and has, cut along the side of one of the surrounding hills, a fine road, which has been constructed out of the profits of the liquor traffic, since this trade is carried on in Bergen under the "Gothenberg system." From Bergen the travellers proceeded up the coast for 200 miles in a native mail steamer to Molde, passing on their way many small villages with their brightly painted houses roofed, not with red tiles, as in Bergen, but with birch-bark covered with sods, upon which grow countless varieties of flowers. Owing to the characteristic of northern latitudes—the absence of any real darkness—Molde was inspected by night; and the steamer, crossing the Molde Fjord, passed up the Romsdal Fjord to Naes, a small village at the head of the fjord, where the ship was exchanged for carrioles, or native carriages, and a drive made up the Romsdal valley. The Romsdal is a long gorge or pass extending for about 20 to 25 miles; at times extremely narrow, at others widening out into a valley of considerable size, and guarded at its entrance by the Romsdal Horn. The sides of the valley are from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height, and down them flow waterfalls fed from the glaciers lying on the mountains behind them, the chief waterfall being the Vermo Fos, with its cascades dashing down a distance of 1,000 feet.

Vestuæs and Soholt were next visited, and the celebrated Geiranger Fjord. This fjord is very narrow and enclosed by perpendicular walls of rocks; it winds, twists and turns, and from the almost overhanging tops of the sides fall innumerable waterfalls, chief among them the graceful Seven Sisters' Fall, dropping softly into the deep, dark, blue water of the fjord.

Mr. Martineau spent a night at Meraak, at the head of the fjord, and

there experienced the pleasant excitement of standing upon his first glacier. After passing Hellesylt next morning, a détour was made to visit the Jorund Fjord, which the Norwegians themselves consider the finest of all, and which is reached by way of two magnificent valleys. In a bend of one of these valleys, is a small village, so enclosed by mountains on every side that its inhabitants for the greater part of the year are shut out from the light of the sun. After seeing the Jorund Fjord, which he described as not so imposing as the Geiranger, but as far more beautiful, they retraced their steps and spent a Sunday at the foot of Kvitegg, the woods on the slopes of which are full of bears, and upon whose crest they gathered the white snow buttercup (ranunculus glacialis). Looking hence across the Nebbedal valley and over the tops of the mountains round Hellesylt, one gazes upon a perfect sea of summits, rising from vast fields of snow and ice. The transformation scene caused by the setting sun turning all the snow rose-colour and tinging the peak with the most beautiful amythyst hue, is one which the traveller can never forget.

Faleide, situated on the Nord Fjord, is a splendid centre for excursions, one of the most interesting, being to the Leonvand, a beautiful lake in the district, and the Kjendalsbrae, a glacier at the end of the valley. The head of this latter is shut in by mountains, none of a less height than 5,000 feet, and a turn in the lake forms the upper part into a sort of basin, known as the Amphitheatre of Naesdal, while the scenery at this point is of the most imposing nature. Here Mr. Martineau and his friend made another detour from the beaten track, and, ascending a narrow pass to a height of some 3,000 feet, spent the night in one of the wooden huts of a saeter, or summer dairy, sleeping on a bed of straw, the hut being of such a primitive type that there was a hole in the roof, which served the double purpose of letting light and air in and the smoke out. The only food to be obtained was milk and flatbrod—a coarse species of oatcake—which forms the staple diet of the herd girls who look after the cows during the three months they spend in this elevated patch of pasture land.

Other excursions were made round Faleide, and a visit paid to Balholm, the scene of the Saga of Frithjof and Ingeborg, and the foundation laid for many a pleasant memory, before the travellers re-embarked at Bergen. The interest of the paper was considerably enhanced by the series of beautiful slides, with which Mr. Martineau, with the help of Mr. Howard, illustrated the chief features of Norwegian scenery. The enjoyment of the audience during the first part of the meeting was to a great extent marred by the unseemly behaviour of a few of the members, and we feel that Professor Sonnenschein, deserves the best thanks of the Union for his timely intervention. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. AUSTIN, and seconded by Miss CADDICK, and we regret that their diffidence prevented their fully expressing the gratitude which the Union felt to Mr. Martineau, for the trouble he had taken in preparing his paper.

THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.

As the readers of the *Magazine* have already been informed the next of the series of Annual Dramatic Performances in connection with our College Union will take place in the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21st and 22nd, 1890, the play selected for representation

being Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." As the preparations for the performance are in an advanced state, a few notes referring thereto may be of interest. First, as to the caste. While this will include several tried and rightly esteemed acting members of the Union, there will be a not inconsiderable admixture of new blood which is the sole permanent salvation of a Dramatic Society. The part of the *Duke* will be taken by Dr. C. GREENE, *Malvolio* by Dr. W. R. JORDAN, and *Sir Toby Belch* by Mr. W. BROOKS, all of whom distinguished themselves in the performance of the "Honeymoon" last January. *Sir Andrew Aguecheek* will be impersonated by Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., *Clown* by Mr. F. R. HOWARD, who took a similar part in "As You Like It" a couple of years ago, *Sebastian* by Mr. LOCKHART LOWE, *Fabian* by Mr. W. A. Brockington, *Antonio* by Mr. A. BERLYN, and *Valentine* by Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON. Of the ladies who take part, Miss JOHNSON, and Miss LLOYD-OWEN, who are cast for *Viola* and *Olivia* respectively, were prominent in the "Honeymoon," while Miss EHRHARDT, who takes the part of *Maria* will be remembered by older members of the Union for the successful part she took several years ago in the Dramatic Performances of the College Deutscher Verein.

The rehearsals are in full swing, but, it need hardly be said, are as yet somewhat chaotic, and the "dramatic coach" has not been much in evidence. In the present performance the scenery will play a part of more importance than heretofore. In this direction the Committee has made more elaborate preparations than in any previous performance, and the quality of the scenes will likewise show a long step in advance. There will be six set scenes, of which five are nearly new, four of them being from the able brush of a well known professional scene painter, while the fifth is the work of the Stage Manager, Mr. F. R. HOWARD. These scenes are as follows :—

1. Duke's Palace. A harmony in green and gold, a very effective scene.
2. Hall in Olivia's House. Oak panelled and tapestried hall, with open rafter roof, and carved oak door in the background.—(F. R. H.)
3. Street Scene. A public square with marble fountain in centre. A good example of what the scene painter can do with the limited materials at his disposal.
4. Sea Coast. A stormy sky and wreck-strewn beach. With the exercise of their imaginative faculty the audience may fancy they hear the roar of the breakers.
5. Olivia's Garden. This is an elaborate scene, representing a formal garden of "the period," with terrace, parterres, vases, *et hoc genus omne.*
6. Orchard Scene. In part an old friend, being used in "As You Like It," but amplified to suit the much larger stage of the Assembly Rooms.—(F. R. H. and C. G.).

The stage management as last year will be in the efficient hands of Mr. F. R. HOWARD, and of the capable army of scene-shifters who have year by year been trained up, several will be at his disposal. The stage manager informs me, however, that he has several vacancies and will be glad to hear of volunteers *who really mean work.*

As to the music, the management have every prospect of securing the kind services of the same band which added so greatly to the success of the

last performance. Besides the customary instrumentation the music will include a couple of songs by "Clown."

Finally may I appeal to the students generally to do all that they can to make the performance as great a success financially, as it is certain to be artistically. In order to avoid the over-crowding of the room, which was noticeable in January last, and to prevent in fact the clashing of the performance with other important fixtures, the Committee has decided to hold it upon two consecutive nights. This involves considerable additional outlay, about which, as Treasurer, I am naturally anxious. In other ways, too, the expenses will be increased, as in scenery, an increase in the rent per night, and so on. But the ability of the students, with the aid of their sisters, their cousins, and their aunts, to make the performances financially successful is undoubted. W. H.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on *Wednesday, October 30th.* Professor R. H. SMITH (president) in the chair. The SECRETARY presented the Annual Report and Balance Sheet. The Society is in a very satisfactory condition, both financially and as regards the nature and technical value of the papers that have been read and discussed during the past year. The subject of these papers, have been "Cycles," "Forth Bridge," "High Speed Engines," "Civil Engineering in Holland," "The Mechanics of Cycling," "Progress of Invention," "The Lancashire Boiler," "The Birmingham Tramways," and "The Disposal of the Birmingham Water-carried Sewage." There are 89 members on the roll. During the Session excursions have been made to the Forth Bridge, Tay Bridge, and Glasgow, Leamington Electric Light Installation, Cable Tram Depôt, Refrigerating Machinery at Fish Market, the Sturtevant Mill Co.'s Works, and the Compressed Air Power Co.'s Works; and the works visited on these occasions have given rise to much interesting and useful discussion. After the election of Officers for the ensuing year, a paper entitled "Electrical Novelties at the 1889 Birmingham Exhibition," was read by Mr. E. L. JOSEPH, in the course of which many novel appliances of interest were exhibited and explained, and the room was temporarily lighted by incandescent lamps. In the discussion which followed, "Electric Welding" excited the greatest interest, and its further development, when it shall have become a commercial success, was looked forward to. The Electric Crane, exhibited by Messrs. Compton, also claimed its share of attention. A vote of thanks to the reader of the papers, concluded the proceedings.

Meeting held *November 13th*; Mr. E. F. WILKINSON in the chair. Mr. MYERS read a paper on "Tools for Pen Making," in which he described the various processes of pen making, from the sheet steel, as received from the steel makers, until the pens are finished and boxed ready for the market. He then gave a description of the construction and preparation of the tools; the extreme accuracy required in setting some of the tools, gave rise to some little surprise. After a short discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Mr. Myers.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Society on *December 5th*, Mr. W. D'ESTE EMERY read a paper on the subject of "Actinism." Beginning

with an account of several of the more interesting cases of chemical decomposition induced by light, more especially those of absorption in plants and of "visual purple," he passed on to explain that the action light effects is due to the atoms of the substance which is decomposed, having the same period of vibration as the particular coloured light to which it is sensitive, so that it is caused to vibrate sympathetically with it, till the swings it executes are so large that the attraction of the other atoms of the molecule is insufficient to retain it. This being the case, a chemical compound can only be decomposed by those colours which it absorbs, and it is owing to this that photographic plates consisting of silver bromide are only sensitive to the violet end of the spectrum. Having explained the false effects produced in photographs by this insensitiveness to yellow light, Mr. Emery showed how it can be overcome, by staining it with such dyes as eosine. The advantage of this was clearly shown by a number of fine photographs taken on Edwards' Isochromatic Plates. These were mostly of yellow flowers, which, while they were quite black in the photographs on unstained plates which were shown, were rendered splendidly in full detail on the stained ones. After a short account of the methods of photographing the invisible parts of the spectrum, the paper concluded with some remarks on the subject of photography in natural colours.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—In a paper read at a meeting on Wednesday, *November 20th*, on the colouring matters obtained from the vegetable kingdom and from cochineal, Mr. J. H. WILSON gave an account of their preparation and properties, and of their uses in the arts and laboratory, illustrating his lecture by an exhibition of dyes and colouring principles (hœmatoxylin, alizarin, &c.), and performing a few experiments to show their changes of colour under the influence of oxygen, alkalis, acids, and other chemical reagents, and the formation of lakes. He also explained the modes of the preparation of alizarin and indigo by artificial processes. After speaking briefly of chlorophyll and the colours of flowers, he concluded by giving a resumé of the way in which the colouring principles of the vegetable kingdom are converted into colouring matters.—Dr. NICOL demonstrated the phenomenon of fluorescence in an alkaline solution of fluoresceïn; and explanations (rendered necessary by the somewhat indistinct and incoherent delivery of Mr. Wilson) were given from time to time by Mr. TURNER.—In the discussion which followed the following gentlemen took part:—Mr. Turner, Mr. Liversiege, Mr. Sudborough, and Mr. Cooper.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting was held on December 2nd. Seventeen members present. Professor HILLHOUSE in the chair.—Miss LEAN read a paper on "Colours of Flowers." She gave a sketch of Grant Allen's theory that the colours of flowers depend on the species of insect by whose agency they are to be fertilized; further, that different colours are produced according to the stage of development of the flower, yellow being the most primitive colour, and blue the most highly developed, the stages of white, red and purple being intermediate, and green being brought about by degeneration. At the conclusion of the reading several of the theories introduced were criticised by Mr. Emery.—A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. LIVERSIEGE and seconded by Miss MATTHEWS.—The PROFESSOR then discussed the points disputed by Mr. Emery, and the meeting was concluded by a few words of thanks from Miss LEAN.

ZOO-PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this Society was held on *November 25th*, Dr. ALLEN in the chair; 16 members present. During the course of the evening a paper was read by Dr. ALLEN on the "History of Physiology," followed by a note by Miss DEANE on the "Octocyst of Mysis," and a paper by Professor BRIDGE on "The Production of Sound in Fishes." Miss Deane's note was illustrated by some excellent slides, and Professor Bridge's paper (in which he proved the error of the popular idea that fishes have no vocal powers) was highly interesting. It was a matter of regret that so few were present to hear Dr. Allen's sketch of the history of physiology, which was so clearly given that it would have been intelligible to those possessing only the most elementary notions of that science. After explaining why physiology, like geology, is one of the most modern of the sciences, he dealt successively with the work of Hippocrates, Aristotle, Celsus, Galen, Michael Servetus, Harvey, Havers, and a number of others. His description of the experiments conducted by Dr. Hope in connection with the stethoscope was of great interest. Finally he referred to the wonderful progress of the Cambridge Physiological School under Professor Foster.—At the conclusion a vote of thanks to the writers of the papers was proposed by Dr. J. F. JORDAN, and seconded by Mr. C. F. M. WARD.

POESY CLUB.

A meeting was held on *Tuesday, December 10th*, Professor ARBER in the chair. The SECRETARY announced that Misses Dixon, Page, Billington and Goode, Dr. J. F. Jordan, and Mr. A. A. Brockington, had been elected members of the club. Dr. W. R. JORDAN read a very interesting paper on "Hood," which we are pleased to print in extenso, and during the course of which he read judicious extracts from Hood's works. A vote of thanks to the reader, proposed by Miss EDWARDS, B.A., and seconded by Mr. BROOKS, was carried unanimously. We regret that so many ladies and gentlemen found it necessary to leave the meeting during the reading of the paper, and venture to suggest that, for the sake of those who have taken the trouble to prepare papers, the audience should endeavour to remain, at least, until the discussion commences.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Laurel Leaves is bright and interesting. The practice of printing the papers read at the Discussion Society ensures a certain quantity of good, if not original matter. But besides these we have well-written fictions, and at least one very creditable copy of verses. The School News indicates the existence of a very healthy enthusiasm.

Our Magazine (North London Collegiate School for Girls) is full of matter. "Christmas" is written in flowing verse, and the excellence of the sentiments is not to be disputed. "Sympathy" is sufficiently interesting to make us feel irritated at being pulled up by a (*To be continued*). To serve up a scientific article, albeit clothed in allegorical garb, under the attractive title of "Humpty Dumpty," is but two degrees short of sinful. The description of the Sixth Form Entertainment, "a tender idyllic version of the story of Nausicaa," makes our mouths water.

The University College of Wales Magazine for October is rather too intro- and retrospective to be interesting to outsiders. It has commenced a twelfth

volume, and is proud of the fact. We wish it every success, and do not doubt its ability, if the present traditions of management are maintained, to reach a twenty-fourth volume.

The *Marlburian* contains a rather weak article on "Foibles." In a copy of verses entitled "The Battle" we seem to trace the influence of W. E. Aytoun. Mr. Brandram's Recitation is criticised with the chilly candour characteristic of Marlburian criticism.

We have also received *The School Magazine* (*Uppingham*) and Vol. I., No. 1 of *The Worker*, clad in a highly pictorial and touching cover. As it announces itself to be "a magazine for the use of hard-working clergy, for those engaged in lay work, and for all who take an interest in the life of the Church of England," and as we cannot include ourselves in any of these classes, we must confess our inability adequately to criticise its contents.

COLLEGE NOTES.

MONS. CLOVIS BÉVENOT, one of the Assistant Masters at Clifton College, has been elected by the Council to the vacant Professorship of the French Language of Literature.

The "College Colours" Committee have had one or two meetings, and have fixed upon five colours, from which it is hoped one will be chosen. In order that the opinion of every student, whether a member of the Union or not, may be consulted, the Committee have decided to post up their selection of colours on the notice board, in sufficient time to allow every student to send in their vote previous to the Union Business Meeting. It was found advisable to select two self-colours, the advantage being the cheapness of the self-coloured blazer, as compared with a multi-coloured one. Green and maroon were the two colours suggested; the combinations of colours being—green, with white stripes; green, with amber stripes; black, scarlet and white. It was thought better to avoid blue—either dark or light—the colour, *par excellence*, of Oxford and Cambridge. A modification of the mermaid, helmet and shield, of the College Arms, was suggested as the badge.

The Programme of the Union for the Spring term includes a paper by Mr. SOLLY on "The Art of Acting," a debate on the respective merits of Arts and Science as affording the most perfect education," the study of a Novelist, a business meeting, an evening of readings and recitations, and a musical evening.

There has been for some time in existence a Ladies' Magazine Club, to which the attention of all Lady Students is invited. The following periodicals are taken:—*The Nineteenth Century, The Contemporary, The Century, Harper's Magazine, The Magazine of Art, Punch, The English Illustrated Magazine, The Magazine of Music, Birmingham Faces and Places.* Ladies wishing to become Members of the Club should give in their names to Miss E. J. LLOYD or Miss A. GOODE, the Honorary Secretaries, and should pay their subscriptions to the Honorary Treasurer, Miss SHELVOKE.

Extracts from the rules:—"That all past and present Lady Students be eligible for Membership on payment in advance of a subscription of 1s. per term or 2s. per session."

"That the loan for the current month of a Magazine approved by the Committee be equivalent to a subscription."

"That Members may, on application to one of the Secretaries, take home Magazines for the current month from 12.30 on Saturday till 10.30 on Monday."

"That Members be allowed to take Magazines home for two nights at the end of the month."

All who knew Miss NADEN, and have heard with regret of her serious illness, will be glad to know that the latest report was a favourable one.

Mr. T. A. JENKYN-BROWN is on a visit to England, from Montserrat, but unfortnnately in a state of ill-health. It is heartily hoped that the change and rest will prove beneficial.

In the examination for honours, in connection with the London Degrees of B Sc., and B. A., Mr. A. J. COOPER has been placed in the first class in Chemistry. Mr. J. J. SUDBOROUGH, in the first class in Chemistry, and in Geology. Mr. MACSWINEY in the first class in French; and Miss EDWARDS, in the first class in English, and in the second class in Mental and Moral Science.

The next number of the Magazine will be issued on *February 15th.* All contributions should reach the Editor, on or before *January 31st.*

Owing to want of room, the report of the Engineering Society, containing the account of an interesting paper by Mr. NEWMAN, is held over until the next number of the Magazine-

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MISS CONSTANCE C. W. NADEN.

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CALENDAR.

February 14.—Union.
" 18.—Poesy Club Meeting.
" 21.—Union.
" 24.—College closed. Cyclists' Club Excursion to Hampton-in-Arden and Knowle.

IN MEMORIAM.

C. C. W. N.

"Whom the gods love, die young."

"A soul whose purity white radiance shed,
"A mind whose riches were not numbered,
"A heart whose depths 'twas not for all to gauge.
"A life whose record was a brilliant page.
"Those only knew who loved her, and alas!
"They least of all can utter what she was."

CONSTANCE C. W. NADEN.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Miss Naden, whose illness, announced in our last issue, terminated fatally on December 23rd, 1889.

All connected with the Mason College will feel this loss peculiarly their own. Miss Naden's personality in former years

so largely influenced the present conditions of College life, and her own intellectual development was so notably modified by her scientific training, that as it has been our privilege to rejoice in her successes, it is in a special sense that we mourn her loss.

To the career of no student have professors and fellow-students alike looked forward with more confident hope than to that of Miss Naden. It is not too much to say that hers was the most powerful intellect, her gifts the most remarkable, and the most highly cultivated of any who have received their education in science within these walls.

Her student career brought to a brilliant termination, a definite scheme of work before her, on the threshold of a new and richly endowed life, she has silently, and we feel suddenly, passed into the Great Unknown, where neither straining eyes nor outstretched hands can follow.

The deep feeling that existed between Miss Naden and many of her College friends will not call for the measured language of the critic in referring to her in pages so long under her own control, and addressed to readers intimately known to her. We are too conscious of what we lose as friend and fellow-student to be anxious about defining the exact position which Miss Naden's published work occupies in modern literature. That will decide itself. We who knew her feel that the memory of her life and character is above and beyond the possessions of the reading world.

Meanwhile the universal appreciation of reviewers leaves us no cause for anxiety on the score of adequate justice being done to her work.

Miss Naden entered Mason College in 1881, from the first taking a different position from that of the average student. At the age of twenty-two she was already known as the authoress of "Songs and Sonnets of Springtime," a collection of poems which has earned for her the title of "A Modern Sappho," from a critic no less distinguished than Mr. Gladstone. The writer of such a work as this evinced mental power of no common order, and a high degree of cultivation. Her faculty of acquiring knowledge was at this time singularly developed. An old friend and schoolfellow of Miss Naden's writes: "The great lesson of her life, for students especially, is what she accomplished by *concentration*. When we were at school together, I remember

that without neglecting other work she yet 'concentrated' upon flower-painting . . . . then for a time on German, and at the end of twelve months knew more than most people at the end of twelve years. . . . I believe she also studied French, German, and Botany at the Midland Institute. . . . She next took up Latin, and attended a class at Queen's College. I joined the class for a term, but found I could not live up to it. Miss Naden had pitched the keynote, and the two other surviving members of the class simply had to study from morning till night to get through the work required of them. She did the allotted work and more without apparent effort, but there is no doubt she 'lived Latin' for the time. . . . Another noteworthy characteristic was her economy of time. I remember her telling me that most of her poems were composed while she was dressing in the morning, and most of her thinking done on her way to College."

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the charming "Dedication" to Songs and Sonnets—one of the most tenderly human poems Miss Naden ever wrote—was composed while the poetess was occupied with the domestic mending-basket.

A leading feature of Miss Naden's student life was that she entered the college with a definitely conceived purpose, and she systematically carried it out. She once remarked, "I had studied history and literature previously, and I came to Mason College to gain a knowledge of science." Unfettered by the requirements of examining bodies, she accordingly took up various subjects one after another, "concentrating" upon each in turn. She successfully mastered the principles of chemistry, physiology, geology, and physics —the marginal notes in her text-books testifying to the depth of her reading and the clearness of her comprehension. Her mental grasp was extraordinary, and she gained an insight into the working of natural law, which specially qualified her for the study of the science of sociology. Practical research in science was not Miss Naden's aim; she had no special ability as a manipulator, and only studied in the laboratories sufficiently to gain a knowledge of scientific methods. The influence of her scientific work is clearly shown by a comparison of Miss Naden's later poems with the "Songs and Sonnets."

After attaining distinction in the subjects she had taken up, Miss Naden crowned her achievements by winning the Heslop Memorial Medal, by an essay on "Induction and Deduction," in 1887. Meanwhile she had taken the keenest interest and a very

active part in the formation and development of the societies that now form such a leading feature of college life. Those who heard her speak and lecture well remember the force and brilliancy of her style, and the keen wit which illumined the most abstruse subject. Not unfrequently, however, she was over the heads of many of her hearers; indeed she could never, from her very nature, be termed *popular*. It was not easy to know her, her manner to strangers being at times reserved and even stiff. But, the ice once broken, her conversation was remarkable for its ease and charm. The often-neglected art of letter writing was hers to a remarkable degree; the notes that flew backwards and forwards anent college matters, the pages that described her travels among strange scenes and people, all were sparkling, trenchant, vivid.

Of a pile of M.S. before the writer, the first that comes to hand dates from the early days of the Students' Union, when interminable committee meetings occupied all our leisure hours. A few graceful lines in Miss Naden's dainty handwriting have crystallized out a trifling incident that would have otherwise been long forgotten, together with the tedium it beguiled:—

> The skies were gloomy, the earth was bare,
> No sunbeam glittered on house or tree:
> "Oh whence, bright maid, are the blossoms you wear?"
> "They are crimson wind-flowers from over the sea."
>
> She smiled and gave me her gems—but more,
> Far more, than the wind-flowers she gave to me!
> In the heart of each was a hidden store
> Of springtide sunshine from over the sea."

In the spring of 1883 Miss Naden travelled for some months in Italy, her letters showing the liveliest interest in any items of College news, while describing the beauties of the Riviera, Genoa, Rome, Venice, &c. In the following year she in her turn acted as College correspondent, every incident being depicted in her own racy manner. She wrote, "Last Friday was the Caucus debate. E—— was to take second affirmative, but she couldn't come, so she sent me her paper to read. When I got there, behold! the opener had decamped, and I had to lead. It was a very lively debate. At the end, just when I was wondering whether I should have matter enough for my reply, an unknown youth rose, and began to describe the blessings bestowed by the Caucus—baths, parks, fountains, pictures, libraries, &c.—finishing up somewhat in this strain:—'And those of us who attended the great meeting on Tuesday

in the Town Hall, and looked round on the sea of intelligent human faces, might well give thanks to the Caucus!' It was quite a godsend to me. I suggested that a parody of the touching little poem called 'My Mother' might be written, in which every verse should end with 'The Caucus'—indeed that night I produced one verse of it—

'Who is it all our blessings doles?
Who is it all our acts controls?
Who is it gives us human souls?
The Caucus!'"

Not all her letters were, however, in so light a vein. No sympathy was more tender, more responsive to the demands made upon it, than was hers.

Writing on the subject of orthodox belief—which she definitely abandoned—she says: "The religion of the future will be a more vivid feeling of life—not of one's own life, but of life in general—a sort of extended sympathy. So that we shall shrink from doing anything that is against the general laws of happiness, even when it seems to make for our own happiness. At least, that is the ideal which seems to me the true one."

Philosophical subjects were the only subjects that she felt to be of real importance; it was her aim, by definiteness of thought and knowledge, to solve the problems of humanity, and this was the end she studiously held before her.

For some time Miss Naden edited the *Mason College Magazine*—a task for which her literary ability peculiarly fitted her. She was also elected President of the Edgbaston Ladies' Debating Society, succeeding in that position ladies so well-known and highly honoured as Mrs. R. W. Dale and Mrs. Crosskey.

Several of the poems that were subsequently collected in her second book first appeared in the pages of the *Magazine*. In 1886 she wrote: "I have just finished a poem called 'The Elixir of Life.'" And in 1887: "I am at this present moment like poor Mr. Dick—my King Charles's head being my book. Shan't I be tired before it's out? At present, however, I am not tired, but very ready to tire my friends. It really is to be out the end of March, or soon after—and I am seriously cogitating the colour of the cover—and wondering whether the title 'A Modern Apostle' (*not* the Apostle of Sociology!) will lead people to expect something pious. . . . . I have just done a paper on the 'Data of Ethics' for the Sociological, to be read

on Tuesday. . . . . The Tuesday before last I read a paper on 'Volition' at the Physiological. It was very dry, I believe. Several people spoke afterwards to the effect that they had profited extremely, but hadn't understood a word. Then —— —— told an affecting tale about a little boy whom he had just taken to the Mason Orphanage, but I forget how it fitted in. I know it ended with 'a good time coming' and a reference to 'Balaam.'" A few months later "A Modern Apostle" was published, and the authoress wrote: "As to the book, I have had very pleasant notes from Matthew Arnold and Andrew Lang. Of course it hasn't been out long enough to be much reviewed. As to private criticisms, they about balance each other—I mean that I get praised or blamed for diametrically opposite qualities. The wisest people write before they have read the book, lest they shouldn't like it — and yet consider themselves honest in saying that they 'anticipate great pleasure,'" &c.

At this time Miss Naden came into possession of a considerable fortune, and, having no home ties, she resolved upon an extended course of travel. In February, 1888, a letter dated from Darjeeling runs:—"Here I am, beneath the snows of the Himalayas—which please pronounce in future with the accent on the second syllable. . . . We steamed down the Danube to Constantinople, then travelled in Syria and Palestine, then in Egypt, where I made up my mind to come on to India. We landed at Bombay, and came across to Calcutta. . . . We had a few introductions in Bombay, and I was decidedly amused to find myself plunged into 'the best society,' and meeting the Duchess of Connaught quite informally at a dinner party. She asked me about Mason College, and I had to explain to her the mode of conducting an impromptu debate. Then we were passed on to the Viceroy in Calcutta, and he liked my poems very much, and amused me by saying that he himself 'couldn't write verse, but could do poetical prose very well.' We met several 'natives' —Parsees and Hindus—and one stout little Parsee in Bombay, the editor of a newspaper, was very interesting from his enthusiasm on the child-wife, child-widow question."

During her stay in India, Miss Naden studied Indian affairs with the greatest interest, having unusual opportunities for so doing. She ultimately became a member of the National Indian Association. A later letter, written after her return to England, records:—"We went up to a stupid place called Mount Aboo

for two days, and the Indian demon-fever, kept me a prisoner there for seven weeks."

From the effects of this illness Miss Naden never completely recovered, though for some time she regained a certain amount of strength. She faced the problem of an enfeebled life with that calm resolution which was one of her chief characteristics. She wrote: "My 'philosophy' is to get all the good out of life that it will give, under all circumstances, which involves making the best of trouble, and bearing it so as to gain moral strength; and even if we can't always live up to this ideal, it is good to keep it in sight."

On her return to England, Miss Naden settled in London, and entered with zest into the pains and pleasures of house-hunting; in December, 1888, she wrote: "I am writing, and buying furniture, and going to lectures, and indulging sometimes in mild dissipation, and learning the value of money—I mean how far it *won't* go—which I never had the slightest idea of before. It is all very interesting."

In the following February she took possession of a charming house in Park Lane, beautified by numerous mementoes of foreign travel. There a coterie of literary and scientific friends gathered around her, and, in full mental activity, she prepared to live to the full that life for which she was so ably fitted. During the last year she lectured at Deptford on Women's Suffrage, and, only a few weeks before her death, read a paper before the Birmingham Natural History Society.

In these few pages it has been felt impossible to do justice to the many-sidedness of her character and the scope of her work. Doubtless an abler pen will later take up the task and tell to those who never knew her all that Constance Naden really was. We can testify that she is privileged

> " . . . . to join the choir invisible
> Of those immortal dead who live again
> In minds made better by their presence: live
> In pulses stirred to generosity
> In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
> For miserable aims that end with self,
> In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,
> And with their mild persistence urge man's search
> To vaster issues."

THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE OF "TWELFTH NIGHT."

EDGBASTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
January 21st and 22nd, 1890.

When it was announced that the Dramatic Committee of the Union had decided upon the production of "Twelfth Night, or What You Will," probably the large majority of those who were interested in the matter were disposed strongly to doubt the wisdom of the step. Many there were who sat in the seats of the scornful, and referred to the performance of "As You Like It" a couple of years ago in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre (and which, *pace* the writer of the *critique* in the *Magazine*, was not an unmitigated success, in spite of the strenuous efforts of some members of the cast) to point a moral to the effect that the works of our great Elizabethan dramatist had better be left alone. And further, although the process of gradual elemination had left "Twelfth Night" in possession of a final majority, unanimity by no means marked the various stages of the process, although the ultimate minority and the non-voters (of whom the writer was one) threw themselves loyally into the work which the majority had decided upon. Nor is there any denying the fact that for a long time even the most sanguine members of the majority felt uneasy as to the choice, for it was not until a bare fortnight before the performance that the company pulled themselves together, and, working with a zeal and intelligence worthy of even a better cause, brought about a conclusion which, we venture to believe, will be memorable in the annals of the dramatic performances of the Union.

The plot of "Twelfth Night" is too well known to our readers to need more than the briefest sketch, for the purpose of elucidating our subsequent criticisms. On the "coast of Illyria" one *Viola* is wrecked, and, disguised as a boy, *Cæsario*, goes to the court of its *Duke*, and there becomes his page. Said Duke is in love, or fancies he is, with the *Countess Olivia*, and employs Cæsario to plead his suit. Olivia scorns the suit, but becomes enamoured of Cæsario, and thus is brought about a train of events connected with the under-plot. Olivia's household includes her uncle, *Sir Toby Belch*, and is under the supervision of her steward, *Malvolio*, while amongst the principal servants are *Maria*, her maid, *Fabian*, and *Clown*. For selfish reasons of his own Sir Toby favours the suit of a shallow-pated knight,

Sir Andrew Aguecheek, for his niece's hand, though Olivia herself will have none of him, and indeed is barely conscious of his existence. Owing to his strict control of his mistress's household, Malvolio incurs the enmity of Sir Toby, Maria, and the rest of the crew, and the ready wit of the maid contrives a scheme for his abasement—none other than the writing of a letter in her mistress's hand, couched in such terms as to lead Malvolio to the belief that Olivia is in love with him. The finding of this letter constitutes the thrice-famous "Garden Scene." Deceived by the letter, Malvolio commits various extravagances before Olivia, which lead to his confinement in a room of her house as a supposed madman. In the meantime Viola's brother *Sebastian*, who is represented as, physically, exactly resembling his sister, and who was saved from the wreck by the good services of one *Antonio*, a famous sea captain and enemy to the Duke, also comes to the capital, followed by Antonio. The latter arrives opportunely to interrupt a "duel" between Sir Andrew and Cæsario, to which the former has been egged-on by Sir Toby, and in which Antonio mistakes Cæsario for her brother Sebastian, and Antonio is arrested by the Duke's officers, while Cæsario, much to his disgust, denies all knowledge of him. Shortly after, Sebastian appears, and is assaulted by Sir Andrew, who finds he has caught a Tartar, and Olivia, who had previously declared her love for Cæsario, comes upon the scene, and, likewise in error as to Sebastian's identity, persuades him, nothing loath, to marry her at once. Complications with the Duke ensue, which are set straight by the discovery that Sebastian and Cæsario are two personages, that the latter is the maid Viola, who throughout has been in love with the Duke, and on one occasion has well-nigh declared the love which, "like a worm i' the bud," was consuming her soul, and everything is put more or less straight by the Duke pairing off with her; the confession of the scheme against Malvolio, and the marriage of Sir Toby and Maria, also clearing up the under-plot of the piece.

As a drama "Twelfth Night" bears certain points of strong resemblance with both "As You Like It," and "The Honeymoon," which was performed last year. But though love, constant in adversity, and rewarded at the last, is the *leit motiv*, it is practically hidden behind the fun which is produced by the evolution of the under-plot; and while, properly speaking, the Duke, Viola, and Olivia are the characters around whom the whole play circles, a part equally important with theirs is played by the secondary trio,

Malvolio, Maria, and Sir Toby, together with the empty-headed dupe Sir Andrew, and that chartered libertine of mediæval life, the clown or family jester. As played at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms the scenes were slightly rearranged and compressed to suit scenic convenience, but the text was that restored in the Clarendon Press Edition, rather than that commonly used for acting.

The rôle of *Duke Orsino* is by no means an interesting or sympathetic one, and the compression necessary for our representation still further diminished the small opportunity the audience would have of elucidating his character. All his maundering over his love for Olivia does not prevent our conviction of its inherent shallowness, and with a fine sense of irony Shakspeare makes Viola herself, while pleading the Duke's cause in one of her early interviews with Olivia, expose its flimsy and half-hearted method. The part would be a trying one to a far more skilled actor than Dr. CHARLES GREEN, who undertook it. To make such a part get hold of the sympathy of the audience would be well-nigh impossible, and probably more interest attaches to him from the reflected light of Viola's secret love, than from his own inflated platitudes. Dr. Greene's study of the part was careful and meritorious; he invested it with probably as much dignity as it deserved, but he could not clothe its dry bones with any real charm. His costume was rather too colourless for a large room and not too well-lighted stage.

Viola is one of those charming heroines of whom Shakspeare's comedies provide us with so many, but not too many. Like Rosalind, and many another, she takes as naturally to boys' clothes as ducks do to water—a phenomenon readily explicable by the certainty that the girls' parts in Shakspeare's comedies were played by boys. The part is throughout a sympathetic one, and in it Miss MARGARET JOHNSON added greatly to the laurels she had gained in "The Honeymoon" and in "As You Like It." Her acting as the page, *Cæsario*, in her interviews with Olivia was characterised by perhaps just a trifle too much reckless sauciness, but the rôle is rendered complex by the knowledge of her own feelings towards the Duke. The Duke's suit could hardly be expected to profit much by her pleading, until at last she comes to describe how she would woo were she standing in the Duke's stead, and then Miss Johnson clearly rose to the height of the occasion. Perhaps her finest piece of acting, however, was the scene with the Duke in which, under cover of the story of an assumed sister, she demonstrates the

height and depth of the love of which woman is capable, and no doubt arouses in the Duke himself a love which only her supposed sex hides from him. Her acting in the duel scene was perfectly natural, and her perplexity when the unknown arrival of her brother had complicated the plot lost only a very little from the inherent incapacity of all amateurs to realise that what is going on around them upon the stage is, until the moment at which it happens, entirely unfamiliar to them. In some of the more tender scenes Miss Johnson was a little hampered by a man's gear which, while the exigencies of the occasion demanded it, was not suited to the dramatic beauty of the part, but she wore her clothes with grace, and her carriage was always appropriate and picturesque.

Of Miss LLOYD-OWEN'S representation of the cold and proud *Countess Olivia* it is somewhat difficult to speak. This grave and haughty dame is not suited, as was *Violante* in the "Honeymoon," to Miss Owen's naturally animated and piquant style. The severe self-repression which was necessary in the earlier scenes of the play did not appear to be readily thrown off, and the later love scenes with Cæsario and Sebastian were, therefore, somewhat wanting in *abandon*, and her movements, especially of the arms, were deficient in freedom. Miss Owen's study of the part was, however, most thoughtful, and it is needless to say that she looked charming.

On the merits of Dr. W. R. JORDAN'S *Malvolio* opinions will be no doubt divided. It is strange that the character itself should have had such diverse views expressed about it. The common presentment of it is as a vain and laboured coxcomb, and this view finds common expression in the pictures of which he has formed a part — to wit, the famous cross-gartered scene in the Boydell Gallery. Now, to our mind this view is wholly erroneous. The student who is wont to find the key to Shakspearean character in some perhaps casual expression, would find that of Malvolio rather in the term "puritan," applied to him by his enemies, than in that of "sick of self-love" applied by his mistress. His whole bearing up to the time when he is so woefully led astray by the letter is that of a proud, staid, responsible, though young majordomo. Olivia herself throughout thinks kindly of him; while, bearing her character in mind, we cannot help believing that a coxcomb would be hateful to her. This being our reading, it will be seen that it coincides with the view taken by Dr. Jordan. Like most proud men, his pride is itself a source of weakness, and makes him an easy gull to the malevolent designs

of his domestic foes. Hence his fall into the trap laid for him. From this point of view then, Dr. Jordan's characterisation is worthy of high praise. In the letter scene he was particularly good, and hardly less so in those in which he is confined as a madman.

It is very questionable whether, had the Committee had a circle of possible actors many times as large as it is, anyone could have been found more fitted than Miss EHRHARDT to take the part of *Maria*. She looked and acted the perverse and mischief-loving lady's maid to the life, and was particularly strong in a branch of dramatic art in which, in common with all amateurs, the College Company is weak—we mean the art of facial characterisation. In the scene in the hall, where the plot against Malvolio is laid, a little more mystery in its evolution would have been desirable, but of all the best gifts of an actor, natural stage whispering is, with a large hall and an audience "on the flat," the most difficult.

Mr. W. BROOKS'S impersonation of the roystering drunken uncle, *Sir Toby Belch*, was likewise deserving of unstinted praise. Barring a little eccentricity in the position of what to Shakspeare would be known as the "paunch," his make-up was admirable, and in his acting throughout he sustained the same high level, culminating in the final scene where he thrusts Sir Andrew step by step across the stage, accompanying each thrust by a new expression of drunken contempt. Amongst the male low-comedy members of the company Mr. Brooks is *facile princeps*.

In Mr. EMERY, who undertook the part of *Sir Andrew Aguecheek*, the company has a new acquisition, and one which, with a little training, will prove of marked value. Mr. Emery has a good deal of natural aptitude for a low-comedy part. Like all low comedians, he has to keep in restraint a tendency to burlesque, but his great source of weakness is a voice wanting alike in power and tone. Mr. Emery has considerable facial expression, and an easy stage presence; and we would advise him to endeavour to train and to strengthen his vocal powers. His Sir Andrew was a careful and painstaking study. He did not overdo his inanity, and his stage action improved up to the very end of the piece.

As in "As You Like It," Mr. F. R. HOWARD undertook the part of *Clown*, though we doubt whether this rôle was as good as his Touchstone. In the first place, the Clown of "Twelfth Night" belongs to the type "malicious," from which to the type "spiteful" is an easy, though mistaken, stage transition. This transition Mr. Howard sometimes made. In the second place,

Mr. Howard was heavily handicapped by his duties as stage manager (of which more anon) and the part of Clown is one which is physically exacting. Mr. Howard has a rich vein of dry humour, and he excelled in such scenes as that with the imprisoned Malvolio, in which he had to undertake the dual rôle of Clown and the imaginary Sir Topas. Mr. Howard is an excellent comedian, but he is a far better stage manager; double duties are too much for the physical capacity of most men, and to have presented Clown so well as he did, is to have performed some approach to a stage miracle. We must not forget, too, his songs "O Mistress Mine" and "Come away, Death" which he rendered with considerable musical feeling.

As "doppelgänger" to Viola, Mr. LOCKHART LOWE was a distinct success as *Sebastian*. But for one or two trivial differences in dress as they stood together distinction was really difficult; in acting, their mannerisms clashed occasionally, and Mr. Lowe naturally played in the love passages with more *abandon*, but on the whole the mimicry was excellent.

Of the minor characters our space does not permit us to say much. Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON as *Antonio* has a good stage presence, and a magnificent voice, and if he can control, as on the second night he in part did, his strong tendency to pose as the bloody villain in the "Babes in the Wood," he will be able to do yeoman's service. Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON took the two parts of *Sea Captain* and *Priest*. Of his make-up as the former suffice it to say that his own brother failed to recognise him. Mr. PHILIP POPE served as *Valentine*, and Mr. BERLYN made a *Fabian*, full of life and mischief, but made up rather as a love-sick northern gallant. His acting in the letter-scene was good; indeed the byeplay of the trio Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, and Fabian in this scene was one of the choice bits of the play. Mr. O. JONES and Mr. BAYLIS were first and second officers and also sailors, and Mr. W. MCCARDIE was second lord.

Of the representation as a whole we can say that it was characterised by more spirit and "go" than any the Union has yet had, and that the knowledge of the text possessed by every member of the cast was such as to render the duties of prompter (Miss Edwards) a complete sinecure.

The stage management deserves emphatic praise. In our experience of amateur dramatics, extending over a score of years, nothing so perfect has ever come. During the often complicated

scene-shifts the curtain was indeed dropped, as a matter of form, but the rise almost instantly followed the fall, and the absence of noise was remarkable. The first credit of this is due of course to the stage manager, Mr. F. R. HOWARD, but his staff of scene-shifters, including Messrs. PARROTT and THOMAS, (principals), MARRIS, PUGH, MARKS, SKIRROW, SADLER, FEATHERSTONE, TUCKWELL, MINERS and STIFF gave him the most efficient of all assistance. Mr. DAIN as call-boy kept punctuality prominently before the eyes of the actors.

A word of grateful thanks is also due to the large and capable amateur band, which, got together by MR. WOOLLEY, and conducted by Mr. E. W. RICKETT, added so much, as it did last year, to the pleasure of the performance.

Last, but not least, we heartily congratulate the secretaries—Miss CHARLES, B.Sc., and Mr. W. R. JORDAN, M.B., on the successful way in which all the secretarial arrangements were carried out.

W. H.

SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS BY CHARLES DICKENS.

A short time ago, at a sale of autograph letters and manuscripts, which included many of considerable importance, five written by Dickens were put up for auction. The letters are written at various times and places, but the earliest of them was penned soon after Dickens returned trom his first trip to the United States, where he had visited Longfellow. The letter consists of one octavo page only, and is dated November 17th, 1842. It is written to Edward Moxon, the publisher, and refers to Longfellow's poems, which he was anxious should be issued in England in a cheap form. After asking Moxon to undertake the publication of them, Dickens continues :—

"I will not apologise to you for troubling you with the enclosed, for I am only executing an American commission which I am bound to discharge when I ask if you are disposed to publish them in a cheap form here? Pray write me such a reply as I can send to the author of the volumes, and so get absolution for my conscience in this matter."

The next letter is written three weeks after, but on quite a different subject. It consists of a page and a half, and is

addressed to Mr. R. King, who had sent him a letter and circular regarding a movement which he was originating, and in which he desired to enlist the services of Dickens. A quotation from the letter will serve to show how intense was Dickens's interest in any movement which had his sympathies, and, in addition, how many things of the kind had his attention. He wrote :—

"I am much obliged to you for your note and its accompanying prospectus, and I beg to assure you that I am strongly impressed with a sense of the great importance and value of such a society as that whose objects it develops. But I regret to add I cannot become a member of it at this time being already connected with so many institutions that if I were free of half of them for evermore I should still be encumbered by the number of the rest."

Anyone who is at all acquainted with the philanthropic and other gratuitous work which Dickens at one time and another took upon himself will readily appreciate the full force of the quotation given above from the letter to Mr. King.

A one-page 8vo. letter, dated from Devonshire Terrace, March 25th, 1844, is interesting in that there is a reference to a carping critic who had fallen foul of an expression used by Dickens in a passage in the "Christmas Carol." He writes to a friend who had written him calling his attention to this :—

"I was perfectly aware of Stevens's note in reference to the door-nail. My meaning in observing gaily in the carol that I don't know what there is particularly dead about a door-nail, is that I don't know why a door-nail is more dead (if I may use the expression) than anything else that never had life."

The next letter is of the greatest interest, for it is written to John Leech, the artist, on March 8th, 1849, and is dated from Devonshire Terrace. It is of considerable length, being three-and-a-half octavo pages, the envelope also is extant, and, like the letter, is fully signed. The letter is written on the occasion of the death of Leech's little daughter, and is full of sympathy and affection, expressed in very beautiful language. It is particularly valuable in that, although Dickens was so friendly with Leech for so many years, and associated with him, not only by mutual sympathy, but by the work they accomplished in co-operation, no letters of Dickens to his artist friend were included in "Letters of Charles Dickens." In vol. I., p. 186 of this work, the Editor remarks, "We regret to have been unable to procure any letters addresed to Mr. Leech,

with whom Charles Dickens was very intimately associated for many years." No reader of Dickens needs to be reminded of his wonderful sympathy with suffering, under whatever form it might exist, and every reader of his life knows how full of suffering, especially in its earlier portions and during his boyhood, that life was. From the incidents in this life we can readily see how it was that Dickens came so fully to express his intimate acquaintance with sorrow in its many and varied forms, but no expression of sorrow, and sympathy with sorrow and suffering, surpasses the beautiful passage in this letter to John Leech. He says :—

"I am deeply distressed to receive your melancholy letter. All consolation is poor and feeble on the first insight of such an affliction, I know, but I cannot help sending you this word of affectionate sympathy and friendship. Try and think it better that the dear little child is spared from greater uneasiness and pain, and is at peace now, than it would or could have been if she had lived a few years longer, to take a stronger hold upon you and her mother every day, and to leave a mightier blank in your lives; above all try to remember that she has gone to the inestimable happiness of God, and that she is among his angels evermore. Our loves to Mrs. Leech, with whom our thoughts are this morning. It is a great relief to know that the end of your darling was so calm. I do not write as I would, for I really cannot say what I would. Believe me, all that is cordial, true, and earnest, and full of sympathy, and interest, and affection, is what we feel here, what I am quite unable to express because we feel it so sincerely."

The last letter of the series indicates another phase of the character of Dickens, and contains his opinion on Shakspeare, and on both these accounts is of very considerable interest. This letter is the latest of the series, and is dated from Gad's Hill on September 6th, 1864. It is addressed to Mr. John Bainbridge, and refers to a proposal to erect a statue in London to the memory of Shakspeare. It extends to one-and-a-half full octavo pages, and the passage referring to Shakspeare's genius is of great interest. Dickens says :—

"I must candidly express my opinion that Shakspeare's last monument is in his works, and that it would be but a poor act of homage to his memory and genius to set up a memorial to him among the London Statues. This opinion I held, but did not insist upon, in deference to the feeling of what

appeared to me a very large majority, when the scheme of a great national memorial to Shakspeare was first set forth before the public, in connection with the Tercentenary; all that has since attended the hawking about of his great name and fame, has been a failure. I now desire most heartily to leave that name and fame alone. Therefore I cannot have the gratification of heading the subscription of the London Workmen, as you do me the great honour to propose. With the highest respect for them and their institutions, I am not of their mind in this matter, and never was. And having once acted against my own conviction, I cannot be more practically limitant than by resolving (in this regard) to sin no more."

KINETON PARKES.

THE UNION.

December 19th.—Musical Evening. Miss L. J. CHARLES read a paper on "Irish Music."

After giving a brief history of the Irish bards from very early times, with quotations, referring to Irish music, from the works of Giraldus Cambrensis, John of Salisbury, Fuller, Vincentio, Galilei, and Edmund Spencer, she dealt more in detail with the history of the latter bards, who lived in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Of these, Carolan was supreme. Previous to his time we knew something of Gerald O'Daly, John and Harry Scott, Rory Dall O'Cahan, and the two O'Connallons. Gerald O'Daly was the reputed composer of the melody "Eileen Aroon," a tune appropriated by the Scotch as "Robin Adair." Of this air, Miss Pearson played the arrangement taken from Bunting's collection, and Mr. B. Ratcliff (visitor) sang Moore's setting to Gerald Griffin's words entitled "Eileen Aroon." John and Harry Scott were noted for coinans or dirges.

Of Rory Dall O'Cahan's compositions, Miss Pearson played "Da mihi manum," an air which established his fame as a harper in Scotland. Thomas O'Connallon, the great harper, like O'Cahan, went over to Scotland, and took with him an air composed by Reilly, which the Scotch appropriated as "Lochaber." This, Mr. Percy Taunton (visitor) sang to words composed by Thomas Duffett, entitled "Since Celia's my Foe." As an example of Connallon's own composition, Miss Pearson played "Love in Secret," one of the many surviving airs composed by him. As an example of William O'Connallon's style, Miss Pearson played "Molly McAlpine," the air of which Mr. A. A. Brockington sang to Moore's setting "Remember the glories of Brian the Brave."

Of Carolan, the most popular of Irish bards, Miss L. J. Charles had many anecdotes to tell, and, as examples of his style, Miss Pearson played "Rose Dillon," with its lively and harmonious jig, "the Fairy Queens," "Stafford's Receipt for Drinking Whiskey," "Planxty Johnstone," "Bridget's

Cruise," and Carolan's Concerto." The following items on the programme were also settings of Carolan's melodies :—

Song....."Bumper Squire Jones" ...Mr. PERCY TAUNTON.
Song....."Molly Carew".....Mr. W. J. MCCARDIE.
Quartette....."The Fairy Queens"...Misses EDWARDS, and TURNER, and Messrs. EDWARDS and TAUNTON (Visitors).

Contemporary with Carolan was Cornelius Lyons, whose variations to the ancient air, "the Coulin," handed down by Denis Hempson, were played by Miss Pearson. Mr. Sadler (visitor) also sang the same air to Moore's setting, "Tho' the last glimpse of Erin."

Of the harpers succeeding Carolan, few were composers. Of these few, Jackson composed jig-tunes, one of which, "Jackson's Morning Brush," Miss Pearson played. Denis Hempson, born 1695, was the most remarkable of the latest harpers, and lived to a great age. In connection with him and his contemporaries, Miss L. J. Charles described the meetings of harpers held at Granard and Belfast, resulting from attempts to encourage the native music, the last of which was remarkable as starting Bunting in his great work of collecting the old tunes. The first of Bunting's collections, published in 1796, gave the impulse to Moore's lyrical muse. As an illustration of the kind of words connected with the tunes prior to Moore, Mr. Taunton sang the air, "The Twisting of the Rope," to words translated from a native poem narrating an incident in the life of the composer of the tune.

From Moore's Irish Melodies were taken the following items on the programme :—

Song....."The Harp that once" .....Mr. B. RATCLIFF.
Song....."As a Beam on the Face"...Miss BEASLEY (visitor).
Song....."The Meeting of the Waters" .....Miss EDWARDS.
Song....."Rich and Rare".....Mr. SADLER.

This last Moore set to the air "Summer is Coming," which Miss Pearson played as taken from Bunting's Collection. Miss Beasley then sang "The Angel's Whisper," set by Lover, to an air in Bunting's Collection, left untouched by Moore, and Miss Edwards sang "Shandon Bells," set by the Rev. Francis Mahony to "The Groves of Blarney," an air better known through Moore's "Last Rose of Summer."

One of the most curious of the illustrations was a cronan, entitled "Ballinderry," which was sung by Mr. Edwards. The refrain "Ochone" running throughout was performed by Messrs. Brockington, Charles and McCardie.

As examples of Irish humour, Miss McCardie sang Lover's "Barney O'Hea," and Mr. Taunton the well-known and ever popular "Father O'Flynn." Both were much appreciated.

A vote of thanks to the reader of the paper for her able and interesting sketch of Irish music, and to those ladies and gentlemen who had so kindly helped with the illustrations, among whom Miss Pearson deserved special mention for the satisfactory manner in which she had fulfilled the difficult task of interpreting these old melodies, was proposed by Dr. ALLEN, and gracefully seconded in a few appropriate words by Miss GERTRUDE SOUTHALL.

January 31st.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—Mr. J. RAYMOND SOLLY read a paper on "The Art of Acting." All who heard the so-to-speak companion paper to this, some time ago, on "The Art of Reading Aloud," expected a great treat on Friday last, and were in no way disappointed. After a slight sketch of the Paris Conservatoire de Déclamation and its most famous professors, in which it was pointed out that its chief merit consisted in keeping alive the best translations of dramatic art and forming a connecting link between the rising generation and the great actors of the past, Mr. Solly remarked that one of the first principles which need impressing on dramatic students is that the actor should always appear to think, not to know; and it is only after considerable practical experience on the stage that this is ever thoroughly understood and attended to. A favourite simile of M. Got is that "Pauses on the stage correspond with atmosphere in a picture," for in the same way that the effect of atmosphere in a painting indicates the relative nearness of the objects, and gives reality to the scene depicted, so, pauses in an actor's delivery, by giving the impression that he is thinking before he speaks, make his utterance seem living and real. He points out, too, that there is always some important line in a rôle which brings out the real nature of the character. So, in Got's instruction, there is one leading idea which is a sort of key-note to which he frequently reverts. He always wants his pupils to master the general idea of the scene, and, to use a scientific term, endeavour to visualize it and bring its *movement* before the mind's eye, saying, "Imagine the scene! If you don't see it you can't paint it. C'est notre métier de figurer les choses." He urges the importance of reproducing the exact individual imagined by the dramatist, and one often hears in Got's class such remarks as "You don't enter into the skin of M———. You are not the personage. You have not his bearing. He is (for instance) a dry, acute old lawyer. You make him loud and noisy. Try to *see* him. If you don't you can't put the proper tones into your voice." After some extracts from Henry Irving, Talma, Samson, Mr. Solly remarked that many other eminent actors might be quoted in evidence that amongst all of them a universally accepted rule of Dramatic Art is that any fresh idea or change of *movement* in the dialogue should be first announced to the eyes of the audience by expression of countenance, question, or change of position. After some practical notes on "Stage-craft," and the art of putting a play on the stage, the Reader referred to the importance for an actor of the habit of close and constant observation of human nature, to whom, he said, the saying "Mediocrity can talk, but it is for genius to observe" seemed specially applicable. In conclusion, Mr. Solly entered briefly on the old discussion as to the desirability, or otherwise, of sensibility, for an actor, and came to the conclusion that although a capacity for emotion and sympathy with human nature is certainly necessary to guide an actor in preparing a rôle requiring the expression of deep feeling, yet that, to quote M. Viégnier, "To keep one's head while appearing to give up one's heart is the secret of good actors." The line of Boileau, "To make one shed tears you must weep yourself" is an axiom absolutely false. If an actor sheds real tears on the stage he will become suffocated, strangled by sobs, and his voice will no longer have the accent which the expression of the emotion requires. As M. Guizot has very well said: "To successfully depict a passion it is certainly necessary to be capable of feeling it,

sometimes even to have actually experienced it; but to feel it at the very moment is not necessary and often does harm instead of good." At the conclusion of the paper, the full importance and interest of which only those who have tried their skill in acting can fully estimate, a vote of thanks to Mr. Solly, moved by Mr. O. JONES, and seconded by Miss TILLEY, was carried with acclamation.

POESY CLUB.

Meeting on January 28th.—Professor ARBER in the Chair. Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON read a paper on "Pantomimes." After dwelling shortly upon the various significations of the word pantomime, and the meaning which obtained at Rome and in England during the Middle Ages, of the mimic dancer, who expressed his meaning by mute action, not of the action so expressed, Mr. Brockington proceeded to treat more particularly of the various developments of pantomime productions. In illustration of the ancient Roman "pantomimus," and the manner of its representation, he quoted in detail Charles Kingsley's glowing description of the pantomime of "Aphrodite" in "Hypatia," a species of entertainment which, according to Sir Edwin Arnold, still forms the staple amusement at Japanese banquets. This ancient Roman "pantomimus," brought to the height of its perfection in the reign of Augustus by two famous mimic dancers, Pylades and Bathylluo, and the Commedia dell'Arte, derived from the old Atellane Satiric play, with stock characters, and extemporised dialogue, were each equally instrumental in the development of the first three English pantomimes, "The Tavern Bilkers" (1702), and the "Loves of Mars and Venus" and "Perseus and Andromeda," both produced in 1712. Pantomime in England rose on the ashes of the earlier Mask, and was heralded by the new-born Opera. Early pantomimic representations were fostered on the English stage by the famous rivalry between the theatres of Drury Lane and Lincoln's Inn Fields, maintained with such energy by Colley Ciber and "Harlequin" John Rich, and so humorously referred to by Steele in the "Tatler," and often by the caustic Pope. Weaver's pantomime of "Mars and Venus," as produced by Ciber at Old Drury, in 1716, was a congruous presentation of dances in character, but that "succession of monstrous medlies" introduced by Rich in such pantomimes as "Harlequin Sorcerer" (1717), and well exemplified in Fielding's mock pantomime, "Tumble-Down Dick; or Phæton in the Suds" (1746), was concocted by a ludicrous combination of the heights of classical drama with the depths of low comedy. Taking a classical story from Ovid's "Metamorphoses," or some other fabulous writer, Rich interwove therewith a comic fable, consisting chiefly of the courtship of Harlequin and Columbine, "with a variety of surprising adventures and tricks," and interpolated dialogue. This curious combination was effected by means of interludes, of which the serious never had the remotest connection with the comic, giving to the representation such a character as would be obtained by interweaving scene by scene alternately "Hamlet" and "The Comedy of Errors." One of the earliest pantomimes produced in Birmingham, the celebrated entertainment of "Harlequin's Vagaries; or the Burgomaster Trick'd" was presented at the little theatre in King Street on Friday, the 28th of June, 1747, "to a

crowded audience, with universal applause." Charles Lamb has noticed three pantomimes witnessed by him in the season 1781-2, "Harlequin's Invasion," "Lun's Ghost," and "Robinson Crusoe," in the latter of which—such are the vagaries of true genius—it is related that Sheridan himself once personated Harlequin. Dealing shortly with the particular history of the three chief characters of pantomime, harlequin, clown, and pantaloon, the lecturer opened the nineteenth century with a short notice of Joseph Grimaldi, the clown, and with Grimaldi's most famous impersonation, in the pantomime of "Mother Goose," written by Tom Dibdin, and produced at Drury Lane on the 26th of December, 1806. Pantomimic productions were divided, as now, into two parts, the Opening and the Harlequinade. The Opening most commonly took the form of a little domestic drama or a graceful fairy story. At a certain stage of the plot the Good Fairy appears, transforms the hero and heroine into Harlequin and Columbine, arming the former with a magic wand, the tyrant and his abettor into Clown and Pantaloon, and the real pantomimery begins. In this guise the motley quartette is sent forth on a sort of tour or chase, and, throughout the next thirteen or fourteen scenes, topsyturvydom reigns supreme. Harlequin is the presiding deity in these realms of wild disorder; the aim and object of Clown is to capture Columbine, while Pantaloon is his flatterer and foil. The Good Fairy at length once more appears, reconciles all parties, and concludes the mock drama with the usual set scene.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the reader of the paper.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—A meeting of this society was held on Wednesday, the 11th December; twenty members present. Mr. J. T. NEWMAN read a paper on "Petroleum." After describing the various means adopted to utilize natural petroleum oil and petroleum waste as a fuel for boilers and for metallurgical processes, the writer described the means adopted on some of the railways in Southern Russia, where 143 locomotives and about 50 stationary engines have been fired with petroleum refuse since 1884. This fuel is the refuse left in the retorts after the kerosine oil used for lighting purposes has been driven off. It forms 70 to 75 per cent. of the total product of the wells; it is theoretically about 30 per cent. better in evaporative power than its own weight of coal, and practically it is more than 50 per cent. better, owing to its more perfect combustion in the furnace. In England progress has already been made in the same direction, and several engines have been in regular use for some time on the Great Eastern Railway, in which liquid fuel with a very small quantity of coal is burnt. The system was designed by Mr. James Holden, and it allows of the use of liquid fuel without interfering with the existing arrangements of the fire box, and the use of ordinary coal may be reverted to at any time, even during a journey. One important feature of this system is that the injector for delivering the liquid fuel into the fire-box is fitted with an outer shell or case, which enables the interior cones to be taken out and examined at any time in a few moments without disturbing the steam and fuel pipe connections, and in case of damage any part can be at once replaced by spare parts carried in

the engine-driver's tool-box. The use of liquid fuel is rapidly becoming a very important one to engineers; the total production at the present time is about 2,000 millions gallons per annum, and this enormous quantity would be vastly increased if there were better facilities for transporting the oil. The United States produce about 1,000 millions gallons, and nearly half the remainder comes from the Caspian region of the Baku. Canada produces about 25 million gallons, but it is only just beginning; in the basin of the Mackenzie River, about 400 miles north of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is believed to be one of the most extensive oil regions in the world; all that is wanted is improved means of transport. These means are being provided, and it is likely that before very long the oil will be delivered at London at such a price as will enable it to displace coal for many purposes, especially for the firing of furnaces and the production of gas. The advantages in many ways will be great, not the least among them being the fact that there will be no smoke nor sulphur fumes discharged into the atmosphere, and the author even ventured to suggest that a time might come when pipe lines would be laid down for supplying this liquid fuel from the sea coast to the then smokeless City of Birmingham. A discussion followed in which Professor SMITH, and Messrs. KNIGHT, WATKINS, LANGFORD, PEIRCE, and ARNALL took part; and votes of thanks were passed to the Author of the paper, and to the Council of the Inst. M. Engineers, Professor Tilden, and J. Holden, Esq., for the loans of diagrams, photos, and specimens.

At the meeting held on the 22nd January, eighteen members present, Mr. J. T. NEWMAN in the chair, Messrs. E. DODD, H. MILLER, and C. R. MARKS, were elected members. Mr. T. ARNALL read a paper on "Electricity on the Birmingham Tramways," in which an account was given of the immense amount of work that had been done in America during the last three or four years in applying electricity to the working of tramways. It was, however, pointed out that nearly all of these American electric tramways were on the over-head conductor system, and inasmuch as the authorities would never allow over-head wires in Birmingham for tramway purposes we should have to depend upon accumulators. Underground conductors were insufficient and not always to be relied upon; and they would be almost as expensive to lay down as a cable system. Some account was given of work done on tramways with accumulators in London and New York; and it was pointed out that when the first steam tramway in Birmingham was being constructed, viz., the Aston Road route in 1882, Faure, Levan, Sellon, and others had only just made the accumulator cell a practical piece of apparatus, and in that year they first demonstrated on the tramways at Leytonstone that accumulators *might* be used to propel a tram-car; and when, in 1886, what was practically the last piece of the Birmingham steam tramways came to be laid, viz., the lines in John Bright Street, tramway traction by means of accumulators was only just emerging from the stage of "experimental runs" and "trial trips." Some account was given of the Julien system which is to be used on the Bristol Road (*when everything is ready*). The paper was illustrated by a number of photographs and drawings, and a vote of thanks to the author terminated the proceedings.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

But first of ourselves. What 's in a name? Something surely, since to our name, and nought else, we are indebted for a communication from Ivan Emeterio Fuente, Evangelical Pastor, who writes from Gijon, Asturias, "I pray you to have the kindness to insert in the columns of your much estimated paper, one of the enclosed circulars, titled "An Appeal to the Charitable." Why we should have been so asked was not at first evident, but in the following further request lies the key of the mystery: "Have the kindness to recommend favourably this appeal to the Freemasons' readers of your paper." To comply with the request might lead to further misunderstanding, so here let the matter close.

The *University College of Wales Magazine* is abreast of the times with an article on Henrik Ibsen, wherein the Scandinavian dramatist is defended against the charge of being a pessimist and cynic, and some of his works given. We note with interest that the "The Good Natured Man" has been successfully performed by the students. The Magazine in every way maintains its high standard of excellence, and the "College Notes and News" bespeak a healthy college life.

The *Reptonian* can never fail while it has, as at present, six pages of correspondence on subjects ranging from "Fireworks" to "Chapel Ventilation." The opening of one letter seems to us to have a touch of pathos, "Why should not the Upper Football House teams have shirts?" Two pages are devoted to an exhaustive review of contemporaries. "How I Wrote my First Novel," is amusing.

The Victoria College Magazine (Belfast) contains much interesting matter, *e.g.*, an article on "Reminiscences of London." A paper on Mrs. Byers, reprinted from "The Women's Penny Paper," November 2, 1889, throws some light on what the Victoria College is.

The most original contribution to the "King Edward's School Chronicle" is an "Ode to the Cane," which is however a parody, for which the author tenders his apologies to P. B. Shelley, Esq. It begins—

"Out on thee, curst spirit!
Wood thou never wert.
That on my hand, or near it,
Causest many a smart
By stroke on stroke of long premeditated art."

The Central Literary Magazine for January is up to the usual level. The most interesting article is on "Robert Browning" by "Achespe."

We have also to acknowledge the receipt of *The Institute Magazine*, *The Girton Review*, and *The School Magazine* (Uppingham).

COLLEGE NOTES.

Mr. WALTER MYERS has gained a Foundation Scholarship in Natural Science at Gonville and Keys' Colleges, Cambridge.

The next number of the MAGAZINE will be issued on March 28th. All contributions should reach the Editor not later than March 14th.

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CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

MARCH, 1890.

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CALENDAR.

March 28.—Spring Term ends.
April 22.—Summer Term begins.
" 25.—Union meeting.
" 26.—Opening run of Cyclists' Club.

SPECULATIONS CONCERNING THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE.

From Thales to Crookes. *

It seems to be expected that every history of physical science should begin with Thales, the philosopher of Miletus, who lived between five and six hundred years before Christ. Very little is known about him or his doctrines, but he is usually supposed to have taught that the various forms of matter are but one, and that all things are formed of water, and pass sooner or later into water. But, after Thales, the notion arose that the principles of nature are not one, but four, and, for something like fifteen hundred years, the current idea seems to have been a belief in four elements: earth and air, fire and water. Aristotle, (died 322 B.C.) accepted and promulgated this view, which is generally associated with his name. But he also added another idea when he introduced his *quinta essentia*, or fifth element, which perhaps may be regarded as the remote ancestor of the "ether" imagined by the modern physicist. The Aristotelian doctrine prevailed down to the Middle Ages, when the Alchemists introduced a new system of elements, on principles which were no less hypothetical than the elements of the older

* The substance of the Annual Presidential Address to the M. C. Chemical Society.

system, but the conception of which arose in a different way. For now men began not merely to watch the operations of Nature, but to put questions to Nature herself, by the employment of the method of experiment. And thus, in the laboratory of the alchemist, out of the fumes of the furnace, arose the "salt, sulphur, and mercury" which obscured all true observation of facts, and all right interpretation of phenomena, down to the time of Robert Boyle, late in the 17th century. That great man was the first chemist possessing independence of mind, and courage enough to enable him to break away from the traditional methods of his time, and get out into the clear light of day.

In his book entitled "The Sceptical Chemist" Boyle reproaches the chemists of his day with the ambiguity of their language, and the mysticism which enwrapped all their work and writings. He shows that their *tria prima* have no title to recognition as distinct entities. No one, he points out, has succeeded in educing their "mercury" out of the common metals in which it is supposed to reside; and the "sulphur" got from one source was evidently different from the "sulphur" obtained from another. Boyle then, for the first time, shows how to classify bodies into those which are compound and those which, *never having been decompounded*, must, till further evidence is forthcoming, be regarded as simple. And this view of the nature of the chemical elements persists down to the present day.

The idea that the metals are transmutable into one another, and especially the base metals into the noble, occupied, all through the Middle Ages, a chief place in the researches of the Alchemists. And although neither the objects they had in view nor the means by which they hoped to accomplish them are recognised at the present day, the idea of transmutation appears less preposterous since the facts of allotropy and polymerism have been known, and now that we are acquainted with the curious relations among the atomic weights of the elements.

Boyle, then, set chemistry upon a new basis, gave it new aims, and supplied new methods. Before his time the seven common metals were known; carbon, sulphur, and phosphorus had been recognised, but it was not till long after his time, when the spirit of his methods had penetrated into every laboratory, that experiment began to be really fertile. Then, spite of the temporary influence of the new doctrine of phlogiston, which may be regarded as a dying effort on the part of the hypotheti-

cal philosophy, correct observation and logical inference led to the discoveries made in such rapid successions by Scheele, by Black and Priestley, and by Lavoisier.

The course of events in relation to the recognition of the chemical elements proceeding from the middle of the eighteenth century seems to hang chiefly upon the methods or instruments at the disposal of the chemist. Thus the gaseous elements, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine, might assuredly have been isolated without recourse to the pneumatic trough, the invention of Priestley; but evidently the introduction of this method of collecting and storing gases would greatly facilitate their examination.

Then came the discovery of voltaic electricity and the invention of the battery. The study of electrolysis, first applied in this country by Nicholson and Carlisle to the decomposition of water, led afterwards, in 1807, to the isolation of the metals potassium and sodium by Sir Humphry Davy.

The possession of these two remarkable elements, with their energetic deportment towards all compounds of oxygen, chlorine, fluorine, etc., provided a new method of attack for such stubborn material as silica, alumina, and so forth, leading thus to the isolation of boron by Gay-Lussac and Thénard, of silicon by Berzelius, and of aluminium by Wöhler.

About 1859 the spectroscope, then newly introduced by Kirchoff, began to be used regularly as an instrument of research. Old-fashioned chemical methods had failed for some years to add to the number of known elements, and discovery in this direction seemed at an end when the water of the spring at Dürckheim came under the notice of Professor Bunsen, of Heidelberg. An examination of its saline constituents by the ordinary processes would have shown the presence of no other alkaline metals than the familiar potassium and sodium, but the spectroscope showed Bunsen that here were new materials hitherto unrecognised, but sufficiently characterised by the lines in their spectra.

Following this clue, he soon isolated the salts of two new metals, to which he gave the names rubidium and cœsium. The same method applied by Crookes to a deposit from a particular variety of pyrites, led him to the discovery of thallium in 1861. Since that time two other metals, indium and gallium, have been recognised by the same instrument. And now one begins to wonder whether the capacity of this

comparatively modern instrument is exhausted. For some years there has been a lack of new elements, notwithstanding that the 'periodic law' of the atomic weights seems to indicate the existence of many more than the 75 to 80 elements already known.

The direction in which chemists are now looking is among the constituents of the highly complex minerals—cerite, gadolinite, samarskite, and yttro-tantalite, originally obtained from Sweden, and now from other countries. From these minerals many new substances have been obtained, some of which—the element scandium, for example—find their places in the periodic system.

The method which has been adopted by Mr. Crookes for the analysis of the constituents of these complex earths consists in a systematic fractional precipitation, repeated many hundreds of times. The products are examined, and the progress of the separation traced by observing the spectrum of the light emitted by the solid when exposed, in a high vacuum, to the action of the discharge from an induction coil. Most solids, when heated so as to emit light, give spectra which are continuous, beginning to be visible at the red end, the other colours being successively added as the temperature is raised. But in Crookes's tubes, many of these earths became brightly phosphorescent, and the light shows in the spectroscope well-defined bands separated by dark spaces. As one result of his work, Mr. Crookes has been led to enunciate very peculiar views about the constitution of the ultimate particles of these elements, or, as he prefers to call them, *meta-elements*. These views are not, at present, adopted by chemists generally, and indeed, they seem subversive of so many fundamental beliefs, that the most conclusive evidence will be required to render them generally acceptable. In the meantime, those who are interested in such matters will find abundant details in the Presidential Address, given last year by Mr. Crookes to the Chemical Society of London, and may be further edified by a perusal of the sharp criticism to which that address has recently been subjected by M. de Boisbaudran, a distinguished French chemist, the discoverer of gallium, who has given much attention to investigations into the constituents of the Swedish earths.

W. A. T.

THE WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ASSOCIATION.

Among the numerous social movements which have had their origin in this 19th century, and which are destined probably to exert enormous influence in the century to come, there stands forth, in ever-growing importance, one which may fairly well represent the most highly developed stage of human society yet attained. I refer to that co-ordinated action which is the outward and visible sign of the inward and invisible spirit of co-operation.

As a recent and somewhat novel example of co-operation, I ask the attention of the readers of the Magazine to an association formed in December, 1887, under the name of "The Women's University of London Association," thinking that a little information as to its aims and methods may prove of interest to all connected with Mason College, and especially to the lady-students who are, or purpose to be, candidates for London degrees.

As an introduction to my subject, I cannot do better than quote from an address entitled "The Economic Position of Educated Working Women," which was delivered on February 2nd, 1890, by Miss Clara E. Collet, M.A. (Lond.), under the auspices of the South Place Ethical Society, and which summarises the position of women at the present day in the following words: "It is because their [*i.e.* women's] work has been successful, not from any depreciation of its value, that I maintain that it is time to review the outcome of the last ten or twelve years, during which women have been free to compete with men in the College and the University, and to take a new departure. London and Cambridge have admitted them to examinations on equal terms, although the latter still refuses them the hallmark of the degree. Newnham and Girton have had to extend their premises; Lady Margaret and Somerville have been established, and have obtained some concessions from Oxford; University College, London, Mason College, Birmingham, the Welsh Colleges, and other men's colleges admit women to their class-rooms on equal terms with men. London, Ireland, and Edinburgh admit them to their medical degrees; the Women's School of Medicine is prosperous, and they have admission to a few hospitals. At London and Cambridge they have done themselves credit in every branch. . . . . But

although our self-respect may be considerably increased, what is our economic position? There are not yet 800 women graduates of London and Cambridge. Of these the majority are assistant mistresses in public or private schools, visiting teachers, lecturers, or head mistresses. There were in 1881, according to the census of that year, 123,000 women teachers, and over 4,000,000 girls between the ages of five years and twenty; and yet already this little handful of graduates is told that it is in excess of the demand, and that it must take lower salaries in consequence. In our public high schools not one in four teachers is a graduate; in private schools the proportion is much smaller. I do not propose to discuss this question, and will only make two remarks on it. The first, that after an expensive college course, which is only less expensive than that of a man because a woman is less extravagant in her personal expenditure, a Girton or Newnham student who has taken a good degree may hope for an initial salary of £105 to £120 non-resident, rising by very slow degrees to about £140 to £150 a year. Secondly, that every graduate should remember that when she accepts a lower rate still she is making it easier to lower the salaries of the great majority below her. If all women graduates, and they are not so many, agreed to a minimum, less than which they would not accept, the mass of teachers already underpaid could not be told as they are at present, that graduates could easily be obtained for the sum they ask."

Coming now to our subject, a short article, by the same lady, which appeared in the "Women's Gazette," describes excellently the origin and purpose of the "Women's University of London Association." "The number of women graduates of the University of London has been steadily increasing since the first year that they were admitted to degrees. In 1880 four women obtained the B.A. degree; at the present time there are 260 who have obtained degrees in the faculties of Art, Science and Medicine. As is well known, the University of London would be better described as an Imperial University, for it opens its examinations to students in all parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies. The women graduates have in the majority of cases been, for some time at least, students at one or other of the Colleges in London and the provinces, although even students in such Colleges as University College, London, Bedford College, and Mason College, Birmingham, have frequently supplemented their college course with private tuition and lessons

by correspondence. Some have had to depend entirely on such instruction, and, it must be admitted, have missed what is often the most valuable part of a college student's education—the social discipline and training derived from contact with other minds at work on the same problems. The University of London, however, if it has made no attempt to be a teaching body, does bring its members in contact with each other later on, as every graduate, after a certain period has elapsed, may become a member of Convocation. The supplemental charter which empowered the University to grant degrees to women left it open to Convocation to exclude women from membership if it were so disposed; but a motion was at once moved and carried by Convocation to admit women graduates on the same terms as men. Women graduates, therefore, may, if they choose, come into closer contact with each other, and take their share in the deliberations on questions affecting their *alma mater*. But although they are thus admitted to privileges denied to students who have passed the degree examinations at Cambridge, they have, to some extent, suffered from the absence of any corporate existence, such as has united in close sympathy the students of Girton and Newnham. They are scattered and unacquainted with each other, and, having had no centre through which they might receive communications concerning questions of interest to all University women, have not been anxious or able to exercise their influence, and take part in movements which have been set on foot by Cambridge and Oxford students. The University Association of Women Teachers, which has been in existence for many years, has comparatively few London University members, and its committee has, therefore, only one London member to nine from Cambridge and Oxford. The Women's University Association, for working in the poorer districts of London, which has for some time had a Settlement at Southwark, and which was formed by former students of the Cambridge and Oxford Colleges, although anxious to secure the co-operation of London graduates, was unable to do so in the absence of any organization of London University women. Similar instances might be quoted to show at what a disadvantage London graduates have been placed on this account. To remedy this defect, in December, 1887, was formed the "Women's University of London Association." The aims of this Association, as defined at the Second Annual Meeting, held in November, 1889, are "to promote union amongst

women belonging to the University of London, to act as a centre of communication between them and kindred Associations, and to afford means for bringing members into connection with such voluntary work as may seem desirable." All women graduates and all women undergraduates who have passed an intermediate examination in any faculty, or the preliminary scientific examination, are eligible for election upon payment of an annual subscription of 1s. 6d. The committee of the Southwark Settlement have availed themselves of the medium of communication thus offered to invite the co-operation of London graduates and undergraduates in their work, and it is hoped that a sufficient number will accept their invitation to entitle them to be represented on the committee. Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., B.S., Miss Macdonald, M.A., Miss Orme, L.L.B., Miss Raisin, B.Sc., are members of the committee."

Shortly after the formation of the Association the following resolution of the Women's University Association for Work in the Poorer Districts of London, which has a Settlement at Southwark, was communicated to the Hon. Sec. of the W.U.L.A. :—"That the women members of the London University who have passed the Second Examination be invited to join the Association as a body, and be represented on the Executive Committee, provided that not less than fifty become members of the Association, and that no member has more than one vote." Upon the receipt of this resolution, it was resolved at a meeting of the W.U.L.A.: "That the W.U.L.A. shall communicate the invitation of the Women's University Settlement at Southwark to the women members of the London University who have passed the Second Examination, and shall undertake to be the medium of communication between them and the Executive Committee of the Women's University Settlement at Southwark."

The objects of the Association are stated to be—

(A) To promote the welfare of the people of the poorer districts of London, and especially of the women and children, by devising and promoting schemes which tend to elevate them physically, intellectually, or morally, and by giving them additional opportunities for education and recreation.

(B) To maintain a house or houses for the residence of women engaged in or connected with philanthropic or educational work in the districts aforesaid.

(c) To receive and apply for the purposes of the Association any funds given or subscribed.

Persons qualified to be members are—

(a) Donors of not less than £3 in one amount to the funds of the Association, during the space of five years from the date of their donation.

(b) Annual subscribers of not less than 5s., during the space of one year from the date at which each annual subscription was due and paid.

Admittance of Workers—

(a) Non-resident: Non-resident Workers are admitted by application to the Head Worker.

(b) Resident: (1) All names of intending Resident Workers, accompanied by the names of two referees, are to be sent in to the Head Worker, that they may be submitted to the Executive Committee. Together with this application, a statement should be made of the work, if any, in which the candidate has already engaged. (2) No Resident Worker will be finally admitted by the Committee till after a week's residence; and permission to continue in residence must be applied for and renewed at the expiration of three months.

Charges for Board and Lodging: (1) No charge for rent or service will be made by the Association. (2) Board and lodging for less than a month, £1 1s. per week, or 3s. 6d. per day; board and lodging for a month and upwards, 12s. per week (payable in advance).

An idea of the amount of work performed by the Association may be gathered from a few extracts from its Second Annual Report. Mrs. Westlake, in the course of her opening speech from the chair, remarks: "I have been deeply interested in your scheme, for the work that can be done in the homes of the poor, by cultured, refined and sympathetic women exceeds in importance, and is likely to have more far-reaching results, than probably any other. The wider horizon and larger insight which your training gives you are likely to fit you especially to deal with the difficulties which beset the poor, and by living here, among them, as sisters and fellow-workers, by entering into their sorrows and trials, by sharing their life, you will reach their hearts and consciences, and mellow and soften their existence. It is not by patronage that this result can be attained, nor by

the distribution of eleemosynary relief, but by personally caring for and helping the poor and their children, and by acts of kindness, dictated by a warm friendship, on terms of sisterliness and common respect. You have done wisely in choosing a field not already occupied by work of a similar character. Though the east end of London is wide enough to absorb all the energies brought to bear upon it, yet it has long been the favourite field for philanthrophic exertion, and the south of London has been comparatively neglected. Here there is indeed a boundless field for your energies, and the danger is that you may be appalled by the vastness of the task that lies before you. You have done well to begin modestly, and aim at doing what you undertake thoroughly, rather than at accomplishing a large amount imperfectly. So far, your work has been to a great extent among the children and young people of the district, and not only do you reach the hearts of the parents the more readily through their children, but work among the latter is so much the more hopeful and encouraging, and there is more certainty of moulding their unformed characters than of influencing those already formed."

After referring at length to the work done by the ladies in the Board Schools and schools of the poor, Mrs. Westlake continues: "A long experience of School Board work has convinced me that women are far better managers of schools than men; they have, as a rule, more time at their disposal, especially during school hours; they have more knowledge of the wants and capabilities of children, of their condition and the measures required for its improvement; they have more sympathy with the teachers, more patience in attending to the many details which make up the daily life of a school, and, according to my experience, more insight into character and less liability than men to be hoodwinked by subterfuge or deceit. A good woman manager makes her mark on a school, and I have known instances in which its whole tone has been distinctly raised, the teachers and children alike refined and elevated, by the constant example of a good and refined gentlewoman . . . . No plan could be better devised than the organized play you are carrying on in the schools, to develop the qualities of order, of mutual forbearance, and of prompt obedience, in which these rough children are so deficient. The London child knows nothing of games, and his idea of amusement is only the roughest horse-play, carried on in the gutter;

but he responds heartily to any effort to develop his power of enjoyment, and the most callous childish heart can be reached in this way when in no other. To these poor children, who so often meet with harsh treatment and blows at home, the affectionate kindness and solicitude of ladies come with telling effect.

I pass now to another important branch of the work undertaken by the Settlement. That of the "Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants" is one of the most flourishing, and a great step has been made by the establishment of a Training Home for these young girls, frequently ignorant of every branch of domestic work, and whose only chance lies in the instruction which will fit them for earning a living.

"The Bermondsey Women's Co-operative Guild" is a step towards the solution of those problems of capital and labour which are among the most pressing of our time. The work among factory-girls and the mothers' meetings will probably develop much more in the future.

Finally, let me urge you to look upon everything undertaken here as of the same importance as professional work, and to be kept to with equally unfailing devotion. A less high standard than this often wrecks the most excellent undertakings, and causes scoffers to triumph. Above all, do not be discouraged if your plans are not realized according to your expectations, and if your harvest seems slow. Such personal and disinterested labour as yours is never wasted. It blesses both you and those on whom it is lavished. It teaches you the lessons to be learnt from the poor—the admirable patience with which they accept the ills of their lot; their unfailing kindness to each other; the self-denial which leads them to help out of their poverty their poorer or more afflicted neighbours. On your part you open to them vistas of a wider horizon, of a life that is more than meat, and can pour on them the treasures of broader knowledge and deeper sympathy from your own more favoured lives."

The Report of the Committee calls attention to the lines laid down at the start of the Association—viz., of co-operation with existing agencies, of soundness of principle and thoroughness of work—and states that the number of members at present is over 550, that the house has been full of residents, and more applications have been made than could be received.

A new feature of the year's work was the closer connection

of the Association with Miss Octavia Hill, who joined the Committee, and brought with her all her valuable experience in the management of Houses.

With regard to the work in the Board Schools, the report states:—"In October there was started a Wood-carving Class for boys; two of the boys have made up their minds to take to the trade, which, we are told, is a well-paid one, and not overcrowded. At present the boys are taken five or six at a time to the National Gallery, and they change their library books on Fridays at the Settlement. Quite lately there has been started a Drawing Class for lads who are employed in ironworks, and wish to learn freehand, and afterwards light and shade. . . . . At the request of Miss Octavia Hill, two ladies go every week to play with the children in the Red Cross Gardens. The object is to raise the tone of amusement by organizing regular and intelligent games. Occasional helpers for expeditions to the Zoo, Botanical Gardens, Kew Gardens, the National Gallery, Westminster Abbey, and other places of interest to the children, are also very much needed; there have already been a good many expeditions of this kind, which the children seemed to enjoy thoroughly.

One Settlement worker is at present on the Committee of the Invalid Children's Aid Society, and visits constantly two invalid children in our district.

A Sewing Class for girls from the Marlborough Street School has been held during the winter at the Settlement.

The Mothers' Club continues to hold its meetings, and the number on the books is 33.

The All Hallows Factory Girls' Glee Club, which has been directed by Settlement workers during the last two winters, has this year, to the great delight of the girls and their teacher, succeeded in winning the Glee Competition, for which eight clubs competed.

In Hatfield Street there has been a small Flower Show, which was most creditable, since a very few only of the plants had not been carefully tended. On Friday in Whit-week, those children who showed flowers were taken to Kew Gardens by penny steamer, and enjoyed the excursion very much.

In the autumn, Evening Classes were started, and held twice a week, for women and girls over 16. The subjects taught have been very various—Reading, Writing, Dictation, Musical Drill, Singing; Lectures on Health, by a Lady Nurse from the

London Hospital; Historical Lectures, illustrated by lantern slides; Classes for Art, illustrated by photographs; and Drawing."

The Committee issue a satisfactory report of the "Children's Country Holiday Fund" worked in connection with the Settlement. The fund started with no nucleus at all, and soon reached a total of £261 16s. 4d., and since 1888 the number of children sent into the country has been 358. Country visitors have helped much in this direction, by selecting cottages for the children, taking them for picnics, and devising amusements for them, and in several instances kindly finding the means to provide for an extension of holidays for the more sickly children.

In connection with the Settlement a branch of the London Pupil Teachers' Association is worked. During the summer months out-door games and amusements are provided, during the winter, reading parties and classes. The Tennis Club met in Southwark Park last year as much as the weather permitted. A small Swimming Club has been started; and a Country Club formed for the purpose of exploring the country within easy reach of London, and two members of the Settlement have undertaken to escort parties of about ten on Saturday afternoons. Amongst other occasional excursions which have taken place are one to Cambridge and one to Oxford, when great interest was manifested in the Women's Colleges.

The Report of Settlement work in connection with the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants states: "During our last working year, from June to December, 28 girls were placed in either training or lodging homes, and 18 received medical and convalescent aid of different kinds. We have sent several of our girls away, for change, to the country or seaside, and they have greatly appreciated and benefited by this help. The great advance of the year has been the opening of a Lodging Home. By the kindness of a city firm a house in Bartholomew Close was put at our disposal, rent, rate and taxes free, for a year certain, that we might try the experiment. Nearly £100 was collected by various friends, and we were able to furnish and open the house. Our plan is to take one or two young girls, of about 13 or 14, from this district, who require teaching, and to fit them for a first place however small. The remaining beds are kept for girls who are out of place and have no home to go to, or who, on account

of the degradation of their home surroundings, ought to be prevented from returning there between their places."

As a member of the Women's University of London Association, and in its name, I ask every lady student of our College who is eligible, to become a member of it, and also, if they are at all interested in its work, of the Southwark Settlement Association. Though at present it may not seem probable that they will be able to render any assistance to the latter, yet they will have the opportunity, at any future time, of spending a few weeks in the Settlement, and thus making themselves personally acquainted with the admirable work it is doing. Being, to use a significant phrase of the student, "up for examination" in October last, I sought an interview with Miss Clara E. Collet, M.A., and received from her a cordial invitation to lunch at the Women's University Club, New Bond Street. During the course of our conversation I discovered that Miss Collet was very anxious to see a Midland Branch of the W.U.L.A. established in connection with Mason College. My readers will easily see that such a plan as this would obviate the difficulties at present existing, consequent upon the distance of graduates settled in the Midland and Northern Counties from the head quarters of the Association in London. Although I believe it is proposed to hold the Annual Meeting of the Association, for the future, on the eve of Presentation Day, to enable as many as possible of the members to attend, and to give it somewhat of the character of a Re-union of old fellow-students, yet a Quarterly Meeting held here for members living within easy reach would be of manifest advantage.

With regard to the practical work of the Association in connection with the Southwark Settlement, would it not be possible to have something of a similar kind of our own here in Birmingham? Have we no East End here to afford us scope for work in co-operation with such societies as the Kyrle Society which provides recreative classes for Board School children, and the societies for the protection of friendless girls?

I shall be glad to receive the names of any ladies willing to join the Association, and, should the number warrant our proceeding with the matter, I have no doubt that we could prevail upon Miss Clara E. Collet, M.A., to visit Mason College and inaugurate a Midland Branch of the Women's University of London Association.

JESSIE EDWARDS.

AN EXPERIENCE IN MALTA.

While staying for a few days in the island of Malta, in company with a friend, I engaged a native guide to show us the principal places of interest in Valletta. After we had visited the Governor's palace and several of the gorgeous churches, the guide proposed to take us to see a monastery at Floriana, a suburb of Valletta. Accordingly we set out in a four-wheeler, drawn by one horse, and driven by a bare-footed Maltese, for the monastery. We drove out of Valetta through the Porta Reale, and soon found ourselves before an unimposing yellow stone buiiding, erected in 1584 by the Grandmaster Verdala. In front of it were twenty or thirty poor miserable-looking Maltese beggars, waiting on the pavement until the monks should bring out the remains of their own dinner to be distributed among them. Our guide went up to a door and knocked for admittance. In a few seconds it was opened by a swarthy-faced Capuchin, wearing a coarse brown cowl with a hood hanging from the neck. He spoke not a word, but, pointing to another door, signed to us to enter. Within the monastery we saw several of the miserable-looking monks, two of whom, after deliberately gazing round the church, knelt on the steps at the foot of the altar, and began in an exceedingly off-hand fashion to mutter prayers and count their beads. We spent some time in looking at the altar-pictures in the various chapels, and here, as in other churches in Malta, were several extremely hideous blood-clotted crucifixes.

Our guide now procured a candle, and led the way to a vault below. This is called the Carneria, or Charnel house, and is one of the most terrifying, revolting, and barbarous sights in the world. Till a few years ago the monks who died were subjected to a process somewhat resembling embalming, with the exception that, instead of swathing the bodies, at the end of a certain time the cowl was put on again, the hood drawn just to cover the back of the head, and, thus equipped in full clericals, they were set up in niches in the wall of the vault. Twenty-three of these standing corpses we saw before us. Not in the least expecting such a sight, I trembled slightly at first, and began to think of dreams and nightmares. At about the height of the waist was a bar of wood fixed horizontally, upon which rested the elbows, and which kept the body in an upright posture. There stood these spectres, with their hands clasped in the attitude of devotion, and in some cases with their eyeless sockets turned heavenward. At the side of each was a ticket bearing his name and the

date of his birth and death. One poor fellow had been standing there a hundred years! and there were some who had only died twelve years before. I touched the arm of one; the shrivelled-up skin was like leather, but the way in which it bent in showed that the flesh was still beneath it. No flesh was on the faces, and in the eye-sockets of some the spiders had begun to spin their webs. The sight was perfectly hideous. One old man had a beautifully-shaped cranium, which showed a large bump of benevolence, and we could not forbear to stroke it. My friend was carefully searching for a stray toe or a loose foot, which he might put in his pocket as a relic, when the guide directed our attention to one whose right arm was covered by his cowl. Pulling the latter away, we saw that the dead monk had lost his right hand, and the guide informed us that an Englishman had been there a year before and taken off the hand with him to England. This information quite damped our ardour in the direction of toe-gathering. Another monk, who had been dead about twenty years, still had his beard. At the ends of the fingers of some we could see where the nails had been, but the bones of the toes of many were separating by decay from the foot. Upon examining one monk my friend jocularly said "And how long has this gentleman been here?" The guide, thinking the word "gentleman" the correct name, from that moment gave us the particulars of each "gelmun" as we came up to him. At length we proceeded to view a corpse with a wire grating before it. Here our guide, who of course was a Roman Catholic, quite unorthodoxly said "Dis gelmun *vas said to be a saint*," and went on to inform us how several pious people, wishing to have some relic of the holy father, had cut away pieces of his garment; and on his breast we saw a great hole in the cowl where the precious cloth had been removed. To prevent the saint from being entirely stripped by his admirers and worshippers, the authorities of the monastery had put the wire grating before his corpse.

When the dead monks can no longer stand gazing towards the skies, the bones are taken and nailed up on the walls in regular order, so as to form a kind of decoration, and the skulls are arranged in rows along the ceiling.

Having now well scrutinized each of the twenty-three bodies, and not being at all desirous of keeping them company for a longer time, we ascended to the realms of day. J. M.

THE UNION.

February 14th.—BUSINESS MEETING.—Mr. HAINES in the chair. The only business before the meeting was connected with the committee which had been appointed at the business meeting of last term to consider the question of College colours. The report of the committee was read by Miss CHARLES, the chief points being as follows:—(1) That no list of registered colours was published; that the purchase of the block necessary for the manufacture of the flannel was equivalent to registration. (2) That in consideration of the fact that the cost of a striped blazer would be 22s. 6d., and that the sale of forty would have to be guaranteed, whereas the cost of a self-coloured blazer would be fifteen or sixteen shillings, the committee recommended the choice of a self-coloured blazer, though they exhibited three samples of combinations—viz., green and white, green and amber, and scarlet, black and white. (3) That as self-colours they recommended green or claret, faced either with yellow or pale blue, dark blue having been avoided as being characteristic of Oxford. Of green and claret they recommended green, as being suitable for all the purposes required, and as not likely to produce confusion in the minds of opponents when worn side by side with the black of Queen's College in the proposed Amalgamated Athletic Club. It was pointed out that the patterns which were exhibited were only tentative, that in case of a combination being selected it would be necessary to alter the arrangement of the stripes, and that the particular shades of the self-colour exhibited were only selected at random from a number of shades in the possession of the committee. Miss EDWARDS, in moving the adoption of the report said, that in answer to the votes which had been solicited, though only a comparatively few votes had been received, the preference was given to the green self-coloured blazer; accordingly she moved "that the report of the Colours Committee be adopted, and that the colour selected be dark green in accordance with the voting." She said, that for many reasons, notably its cheapness and durability, green was well suited as the colour for the College blazer.—Mr. F. R. HOWARD having seconded the resolution, Mr. EMERY moved as an amendment, "that the word *not* be inserted before the words *dark green;*" but, being reminded that this simply negatived the resolution, moved "that the part of the resolution after *adopted* be omitted." He said that his object in moving an amendment was to prevent so important a matter as the selection of the College colours from being settled without adequate discussion. He thought he could safely say that the colours suggested by the committee were not generally liked. Green was most unsuitable, and if it were selected it would be the exception for anyone to wear it. Mr. Emery also complained of the manner in which the voting had been conducted.—Mr. MARKS seconded the amendment, and elicited that the number of voters was sixteen. He suggested that the committee might add to their suggestions.—Mr. BROCKINGTON made the same suggestion, but Miss EDWARDS said that the committee had considered the matter with great care, and she did not think they could add to their suggestions.—Mr. W. BROOKS, in supporting the resolution, said that he had seen a green blazer at the last Edgbaston Lawn Tennis Tournament, and the effect was very good.—Mr. SKIRROW thought that the suggested colours were depressing. It was more important that the colours chosen should be bright and cheerful, than that they should be distinctive. The

committee seemed to have boycotted blue as a colour altogether, on account of its association with the Universities, but it would be possible to adopt a combination including blue, which should be arranged differently from any other. They might take the colours of some little-known Oxford or Cambridge college and arrange them slant wise.—After some remarks from Mr. TUCKWELL, Miss E. J. LLOYD said that she thought the committee had been rather hardly treated. Cheerfulness could be given to a self-colour by judiciously chosen facings. Having seen a dark green jersey, she could say it looked very well indeed. She moved, as likely to advance the matter a step, "That a self-colour be chosen;" but the amendment was afterwards withdrawn. At length, acting on a suggestion thrown out by Miss EDWARDS, Miss CHARLES moved, and Mr. BROOKS seconded, that a new committee of six be appointed to further consider the matter, and report at their earliest convenience, and it was tacitly understood that their suggestions were to be considered alongside those of the old committee. Mr. EMERY withdrew his amendment, and Miss Charles's amendment was carried. The constitution of the new committee being settled as four gentlemen and two ladies, the election was proceeded with, and the following ladies and gentlemen were elected:—Misses EHRHARDT and LEAN, Professor POYNTING, and Messrs. SKIRROW, EMERY, and MARKS. The meeting then ended.

February 21st.—Mr. HAINES in the chair.—An Evening with a Novelist.—Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON read an interesting account of "Sir Walter Scott," giving a biographical account of the novelist and a criticism of his novels, which displayed a just appreciation of their merits and defects. Mr. Brockington's fine voice was heard to advantage in the reading of the paper, his utterance was distinct and unmarred by that forced gutturalness of tone which distinguishes his declamation, and which became unpleasantly noticeable as soon as he began to read the dialogue from "The Abbot," which he had selected as one of his illustrations. With regard to the other illustrations, Mr. Emery's reading from "Ivanhoe" was somewhat marred by more than an occasional hesitation of utterance, but Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON'S simple and audible style did ample justice to the passage from "Rob Roy." Mr. BROCKINGTON opened his paper with a few biographical details. Scott, the son of an Edinburgh attorney, was born in 1771, and at the age of twelve, after attending the High School, went to the Edinburgh University. His was a late maturing genius, his ability during boyhood was of a capricious, fanciful, and irregular nature, and the same characteristics prevented his attaining to eminence in the law, which he practised for 14 years from 1792. It was in 1814 that Scott cast off the trammels of metrical romance, and under the inspiration of Maria Edgeworth's "Stories of Ireland," essayed the production of the novel "Waverley." This was the first of 28 romantic works, all of which were primarily essays on the manners and political state of Scotland or England in any given age. Scott's talent lay in characterisation and local colouring rather than in the development of plot and action, and this is well illustrated in "Waverley," where the first thirty chapters have little interest, but as an almost unrivalled portrait gallery of manners and customs in the Highlands in the days of '45. The same novel also illustrates his practice of hurrying his stories at the conclusion—a gross mechanical blunder. It

was in the painting of life and nature, especially as viewed through the spectacles of the past, in historic portraiture that Scott was in his own proper element; but while his historical portraits are unequalled, he failed where Dickens, Thackeray, and Jane Austen succeeded—in delineating the littleness of life and the petty intrigues of society. Mr. BROCKINGTON next treated of Scott's "hero," by which name Scott himself tells we are, according to romantic etiquette, to understand the person who marries the heroine, and from an examination of the characters of "Edward Waverley," "Ivanhoe," and "Henry Morton," he concluded that Scott's heroes were too often colourless and mere lay figures by means of which Scott displayed his accurate knowledge of the rights and wrongs of opposite causes. Scott was unfortunate in depicting the gentler phases of ordinary womanhood; his "Rose Bradwardines," his "Die Vernons," his "Flora McDonalds" are all of the same type; but depicting the Scottish peasantry, professional women, women of rank, and, above all, great historic characters was Scott's especial province, as "Jeanie Deans" and "Mary Queen of Scots" show. Mr. BROCKINGTON then read the passage from "The Abbot," which depicts Mary's agony and remorse, caused by Lady Fleming's reference to the ill-fated bridal of Darnley at Holyrood, breaking in on her hour of fascinating condescension.

Scott was, generally speaking, no humorist, but Mr. Brockington was able to adduce many instances of dry humour in which Scott was often most happy; and as a further illustration MR. EMERY read the account from "Ivanhoe" of Friar Tuck entertaining the Black Knight. The point and effect of Scott's humour was greatly enhanced by his perfect command of the dialect of the peasantry, and his dialogue is noticeable for its uniform naturalness. He not rarely displays the light touches of the playwright's art; but occasionally the lack of dramatic force is painfully evident, as in the account of the execution of Fergus McIvor. Scott's prose was a poet's prose, and many of his descriptions of nature want only the trappings of rhyme to rise to the full heights of poetry. Scott, too, makes use of that kind of dramatic narrative where a strong effect is produced by the awful impressions and horror of the scene portrayed rather than by literary power. As an example of this, Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON read the passage from "Rob Roy" in which the agent Morris is arraigned before Helen McGregor. Scott died in the year 1832, worn out with the noble efforts he made to free himself from debt. A sonnet of Wordsworth's, entitled "On the Departure of Sir Walter Scott from Abbotsford for Naples," formed a fitting conclusion to Mr. Brockington's paper.—A vote of thanks to the reader of the paper was proposed by Professor SONNENSCHEIN, who, in the course of his remarks, referred to a recent visit he had made to Abbotsford; and was seconded by Miss M. MCCARDIE.

March 7th.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—The meeting was devoted to readings and recitations by members. The following was the programme:—

"Lady of the Lake" (Canto V.) .....Mr. L. S. MARKS.
"Donald" (*Browning*) .....Mrs. SONNENSCHEIN.
Extract from "The Story of an African Farm" .....} Mr. J. F. JORDAN, M.B.
"Over the Hill to the Poorhouse" .....Mr. T. J. S. HOOSON, B.A.

A vote of thanks to the readers, moved by Miss E. J. LLOYD, and seconded by Mr. W. D. MACKENZIE, was passed. The meeting then ended. Immediately afterwards a special meeting was held, in accordance with announcement, to receive the report of the second Colours Committee, and further consider the question.—Mr. EMERY moved the adoption of the report. The committee stated that they had considered the question rather from the point of view of ties and ribbons than of blazers (though they suggested that of their combinations the darker colour might be used for a self-colour and the lighter one for facing, when used in a blazer). They had submitted their combinations to the students, and the voting had resulted in an overwhelming majority in favour of claret and gold as the College colours. He complained that the old committee in putting up what were professedly suggestions for ties, etc., in accordance with their former suggestions, had really put up new combinations, one of which was very much like the favourite suggestion of the new committee.—Mr. MARKS, in seconding the resolution, deprecated the considering of the question wholly from the point of view of blazers, as the old committee had done.—Prof. HILLHOUSE regretted that he was unavoidably absent from the former meeting. He had been rather astonished at the result, and if present, would have opposed the formation of a new committee. The old committee was large, and went through several hundreds of patterns. They had considered the question from all points of view—blazers, ties, and even the possible future institution of a College flag. They had suggested claret faced with amber, which was practically the suggestion of the new committee. It might be advisable to decide first whether a self-colour should be chosen or a combination.—Miss CHARLES endorsed this suggestion, and said that some misunderstanding seemed to have arisen, due, perhaps, to an imperfect hearing of the report of the first committee, and moved that the report of the second committee be received, and the committee be thanked for their labours.—Prof. HILLHOUSE suggested that the matter be referred to a joint meeting of the two committees, to consider different shades of green and claret, which seemed the favourite colours of the two committees. —Miss CHARLES thought it was highly desirable that the matter should be settled at once.—Mr. MALINS moved, and Miss LLOYD seconded, "That the Union proceed at once upon the two suggestions—'claret and gold' and 'green and amber.'"—On Prof. HILLHOUSE pointing out that gold was very liable to tarnish, amber was substituted.—Mr. CHARLES moved, and Mr. MCCARDIE seconded an amendment, "That green and amber be the College colours."—In accordance with Mr. Hillhouse's suggestion the amendments were not put, but the House proceeded to vote on the colours, which was the substance of the two amendments.—The House then divided on the question "claret and amber" or "green and amber." The result of the voting was—for green and amber, 38; for claret and amber, 35.—Miss LLOYD then moved that the members of both committees be thanked for their services, and that they be asked to hold a joint meeting to decide upon the particular shade of green.—Mr. EMERY demanded a ballot, alleging that he and Mr. Marks had counted differently from the figures given by the Chairman.—The CHAIRMAN declined to grant one, pointing out that members had left the meeting.—Mr. CHARLES seconded Miss Lloyd's resolution.—The CHAIRMAN put it to the meeting, when it was carried, and the meeting ended.

POESY CLUB.

Tuesday, February 18th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—The meeting, which was devoted to a reading of Sheridan Knowles's "Hunchback," was held in the Examination Hall, and was attended by fifty members and friends. The plot of the play is as follows :—Master Walter, the Hunchback, agent to the late Earl of Rocheford, introduces, as a suitor to his ward Julia, Sir Thomas Clifford, a young man who had saved him from the consequences of a quarrel with Gaylove, one of the friends of Wilford, contracted when he went to announce to Wilford the news of his succession to the earldom. Sir Thomas at first sight falls in love with Julia, who favours his suit. He accompanies them to town when Master Walter takes Julia from the seclusion of the country in which she had hitherto lived, and for which, in spite of the representations of her cousin Helen, she professes a preference. Arrived in town, Julia becomes so fashionable and so frivolous that the change in her becomes a topic of conversation to the servants, serving as a subject of merriment for Holdwell and Fathom, but as a matter of regret for Master Heartwell, the steward, who takes upon himself the thankless task of explaining the state of affairs to Master Walter on his return after an absence. The change in Julia's sentiments also accidentally becomes revealed to Sir Thomas, who, in a hasty revulsion of feeling, informs her that she may marry him on the day fixed, but that she will be his wife in name only, since she values his fortune and title more than his love. His treatment of her makes Master Walter angry, but he is not more incensed than Julia, whose resentment leads her to accept the addresses of the Earl of Rocheford, which are presented to her through Master Walter, but which changes to pity when she hears that owing to the reappearance of a lost cousin, Sir Thomas has lost both fortune and title. She cannot conceal her love and regret when Master Clifford comes to her in the guise of the Earl's secretary, but, mindful of her honour she determines to fulfil her promise to the Earl. Accordingly, they all go to the Earl's castle, where in the presence of Master Walter and Master Clifford she receives the Earl and his friend Lord Tinsel, and bravely tells him that she will give him her hand though she cannot give him her heart. With this her unworthy suitor professes himself satisfied, but she is saved from the sacrifice by the interposition of the Hunchback, who proclaims himself to be not only the rightful Earl, but Julia's mysterious father. He sanctions a second time her union with Master Clifford, whom he had sent to her as the secretary to make her trial the harder in order to show her how foolishly she had acted. The humour is supplied by the underplot, dealing with the courtship of Helen and her cousin Modus, a bashful and studious youth who is plagued by Helen into making love.

The part of the Hunchback was taken by Professor Hillhouse at a few hours' notice. Sufficient praise cannot be given to his vigorous and finished rendering of the part. Julia was read by Miss Johnson in a pleasing and sympathetic manner, and Miss Rollason made an amusing and spritely Helen. Sir Thomas was represented by Mr. Martineau, who read the part clearly and well and with considerable spirit, while Dr. J. F. Jordan made an ideal Modus. Of the minor parts Mr. Emery read the part of the quarrelsome Gaylove with spirit, Mr. Baylis made a most amusing Lord Tinsel, and Mr. Skirrow a capital Master Heartwell. Mr. Hallwright as

Fathom was too timid at the sound of his own voice to do justice to the part, but did very well for a first attempt. Mr. Kineton Parkes as the Earl, Mr. Miners as Holdwell, Mr. P. Jones as Stephen, Mr. T. H. Arber as Williams, and Mr. Wilson as servant and waiter, acquitted themselves well. Taken as a whole the reading was certainly a great success.

18th March.—MEETING.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—The President referred to the subject fixed upon by the Committee for the Poesy Club Prize, and made a few remarks with regard to the Summer Excursion. He also stated that the following resolution had been passed at the last committee meeting: "That this committee desires to place on record its sense of the great loss the Club has sustained by the death of Miss Naden one of the earliest members of the committee, and formerly a most active member of the Club." Dr. J. F. JORDAN then read a paper on "Whittier," which was exceedingly interesting, and illustrated throughout by wise selections from the author's poems. John Greenleaf Whittier is remembered chiefly for his "Voices of Freedom." In these he showed deep sympathy with the slaves, an earnest longing for their freedom, and hatred of their oppressors. During the earlier years of his manhood, from 1833 to 1860, he worked incessantly in the cause of abolition, attending meetings, speaking, and writing his "Voices of Freedom;" of these the best are "The Pine Tree," "From Massachusetts to Virginia," and the "Cry of the Slave Mother." Whittier came of a family belonging to the Society of Friends, and he has shown in all his poetry, more particularly in later years, the deep influence that their religion had upon him. During the war he could not bring himself to write much, but what he did write includes one of his very finest pieces, "Barbara Frietchie," and a magnificent thanksgiving song, "Laus Deo." Of his other pieces, the two ballads "Maud Müller" and "Mary Garvin" are the best; and of his descriptive poems, "Snow-bound" and "Among the Hills" are full of sweetness and melody.

Miss BROOKS followed with a paper on "The Good Gray Poet," which was listened to with great pleasure, especially as the reader's clear delivery enabled her hearers to grasp the whole of it, without that exhaustive effort which is sometimes necessary at our meetings. Walt. Whitman was born in 1819, and his first volume of poems, "Leaves of Grass," was published in 1855. It was followed by a volume of poems called "Two Rivulets," and one of prose called "Specimen Days and Collect." Walt. Whitman is essentially the poet of the modern world; he believes that the future of poetry is with America. But, if he is the poet of Democracy, he is yet more the poet of Individuality. There is nothing greater to him than a man or woman; his chief aim is to sing the beauty and dignity of the complete life of individuals. One of the great characteristics of Walt. Whitman is his invincible optimism; he has been called "the poet of unconquerable health," while in the profoundest aspects of his poetry there is apparent the same serenity of trust. Filled with the belief that,

> "In this broad earth of ours,
> Amid the measureless grossness and clay,
> Enclosed and safe within its central heart,
> Nestles the seed perfection."

He looks forward to the future, both of himself and the world, with unclouded hope; to him it is the one great vital fact of the universe.

Dr. ALLEN, in moving a vote of thanks to the readers of the papers, raised the question whether Walt. Whitman should be styled a poet in the strict and accepted sense of the term.—Mr. KINETON PARKES, in seconding the resolution, expressed his opinion that in this age of enlarged ideas our definition of a poet might well be widened so as to include the name of Walt. Whitman. The vote of thanks was heartily carried.

GERMAN VEREIN.

There have only been two meetings this term of the above Society—one devoted to Readings and Recitations, one to Music. Another meeting should have been held, but in consequence of unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the Verein will not meet again this term. No meetings are held in the Summer term, but the Committee hope to provide an interesting programme for the Autumn term. New members will be gladly welcomed.

CYCLISTS' CLUB.

The Annual Meeting was held on Monday, March 17th, when tea was provided in the Physics Laboratory, and the meeting held in the Students' Common Room. Dr. POYNTING presided; and the Committee's report and Treasurer's balance sheet were adopted, the latter showing a balance in hand of £2 4s. 7½d. A discussion took place upon the constitution of the club in general, and it was decided that as those who ride for the sake of riding, and consequently prefer long distances and high speed, were in a great minority, and moreover, members, many of them, of other local clubs, the programme should be adapted mainly for the more moderate cyclists, and that the destinations, as far as possible, should be such that the walking party could attend the excursions. It was suggested that some good runs might be arranged for—*e.g.*, to Stratford, Kenilworth, and Stoneleigh—on which occasions the pedestrians might avail themselves of the summer train-excursions. It was also announced that Queen's College Cyclists' Club were willing for any members of Mason's Cyclists' Club to join them at any of their runs, which are all of them fixed at a good average distance. There will be one joint run of the two clubs—viz., on June 28th, to Rowington. The following is a list of M.C.C.C. officers for the ensuing season: President, Dr. POYNTING; Vice-Presidents, Dr. ALLEN, Dr. J. F. JORDAN, Dr. NICOL, Professor SONNENSCHEIN, Professor SMITH, and Mr. TURNER; Secretary, Mr. SKIRROW; Treasurer, Mr. G. H. MORLEY; Captain, Mr. COOKE; Sub-Captain, Mr. KEEP; Committee, Misses DEANE and EDWARDS, Messrs. CLAPHAM, CRAIG, PEDLEY, PUGH, and SAPEY. All students are invited to become members of the Club; the annual subscription is 1s.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL UNION.—On Monday, March 3rd, 1890, a conjoint meeting of the Biological Association and Botanical Society was held to consider a scheme for reconstruction of the Association. It was decided to fuse the Botanical, Biological, and Zoo-Physiological Societies under the title of

"The Mason College Biological Union." The following were elected as the officers of the newly-formed Union :—President, Professor HILLHOUSE; Vice-Presidents, Professor ALLEN, Professor BRIDGE, Professor WINDLE; Treasurer, Dr. J. F. JORDAN; Secretary, Mr. C. F. MYERS-WARD; Committee, Miss DEANE, Miss MATHEWS, Miss G. E. SOUTHALL, Messrs. BARCLAY, EMERY, GRIFFITHS, HAINES, MYERS, and WINTLE.—Mr. W. MYERS then read an excellent paper on "The Ascent of Water in Plants." He pointed out that there were two prevailing theories: (1) That the water ascended in the substance of the wood; (2) that the water ascended in the cavities of the vessels of the wood. He gave the evidence for and against each theory, and stated that after careful consideration he thought the evidence was pretty evenly divided. — Messrs. EMANUEL, EMERY, and WARD discussed the paper.—Miss MATHEWS moved, and Mr. EMANUEL seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Myers for a well-written and well-delivered paper. This was carried, and concluded the proceedings.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, February 27th.—This being the annual meeting, after the Secretary and Treasurer had read their reports for the previous session, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers and committee for the ensuing session. Mr. INGRAM was reappointed as Secretary, and Mr. HACKETT as Treasurer; and Misses DEANE, EDWARDS, and SAXELBY, and Messrs. NEWMAN, EMERY, FENBY, CRAIG, and PUGH were elected on the Committee. It was decided that a Photographic Section of the Society be formed, and Dr. NICOL, Messrs. TUCKWELL, PUGH, and EMERY were appointed to organise its formation.—Mr. SKIRROW was then called upon to read a paper on "Recent Work in Magnetism." It was pointed out at the beginning of the paper that we still seem to be very far from explaining the nature of magnetism; that no reason had yet been given for the fact that iron, nickel, and cobalt are enormously magnetic, while all other substances are practically non-magnetic. After a brief account of the methods of measuring the relation of the magnetisation of iron to the magnetising current, a short account of Ewing's researches on this subject was given establishing the fact that the magnetisation of an iron ring at any time depends on its previous history, so that its magnetism is greater for a given current when that current is reached by lowering from higher currents than when reached by increasing from lower currents. To this Ewing gave the name of Hysteresis. The influence of previous straining of the iron on the magnetisation in diminishing its maximum and increasing the hysteresis was alluded to. Ewing found, too, that hammering or vibrating the iron had the effect of removing a considerable amount of the residual magnetism and diminishing the hysteresis. Some of the experiments of Hopkinson on the effect of mixing non-magnetic and magnetic substances together were next described, and an account given of the interesting phenomenon known as "Recalescence," being the appearance of a quantity of latent heat, when steel or iron are cooled through the temperature at which they begin to be magnetic. The paper was concluded with a short review of the different theories of magnetism, it being specially noted that recalescence is inconsistent with Ampere's theory.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11th, 1890. Present 36 members and friends. Messrs. HARRISON, SAPEY, and GLADSTONE were elected members. The Secretary read the report of

Committee and the Treasurer's balance sheet which were adopted. The following officers for the year were elected: Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. H. WILSON; Committee, Miss LEAN, Miss LLOYD, Messrs. BECK, BISHOP, COOPER, MILLAR, and SUDBOROUGH.—The President then moved that the best thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Beck, the retiring Secretary, for the efficient way in which he had carried on the work of the Society. Mr. SUDBOROUGH seconded the motion which was carried with applause. Dr. TILDEN then delivered his Presidential Address entitled "The Chemical Elements," (for the substance of which, see p. 1 of present number,) and which was listened to with much interest. Dr. Tilden exhibited a number of the rare earths prepared by Mr. Crookes by his method of fractional precipitation, and kindly lent by him for the occasion. Each substance was contained in a sealed egg-shaped tube completely exhausted of air, and provided with wires by means of which the discharge from a Rhumkorff induction coil could be continuously directed upon the solid contained in the tube. The electrified molecules of the residual air are supposed to be thrown violently upon the surface of the solid beneath, causing it to emit a beautiful phosphorescence. The glass of the tube also gives out light, and many other substances, such as diamond and ruby, under the same circumstances glow wirh phosphorescent light. In many cases, especially the earths exhibited, the light displays in the spectroscope a series of coloured bands separated by dark spaces, the position, colour, and intensity of the bands and lines forming characteristic phenomena by which each substance may be identified.—Mr. COOPER proposed, and Mr. SPILSBURY seconded, that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Dr. TILDEN. The motion was carried unanimously.—After Dr. TILDEN'S response the meeting terminated.

Meeting on Wednesday, February 19th, 1890.—Dr. TILDEN in the chair. 13 members present.—Mr. D. P. BAGNALL was elected a member of the Society.—The Chairman then called upon Mr. GLENNIE to read a paper on "Gold Milling in Mexico," of which we hope to publish, in our next number, a more lengthy account than present space will permit. In the discussion which followed, Dr. TILDEN suggested that chlorine, which it is sought to employ instead of mercury, to separate the gold, might be conveyed to the spot in a condensed or liquefied form, and made several useful remarks with regard to its employment. Mr. BECK enquired about the cost of living at the goldfields, and the wages of the men, to which Mr. GLENNIE gave some amusing replies. Proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. GLENNIE for his instructive paper.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—A meeting was held in the College, on Wednesday, 5th of March. Present seventeen members. Mr. R. J. RICHARDSON in the chair.—Mr. T. TURNER read a paper on "Silicon in Iron and Steel." Ten years ago it was thought and taught in all the text-books that silicon in all proportions was injurious to iron and steel. Recent researches have shown that this belief must be modified, and whether silicon is injurious or not will depend entirely upon the proportion in which it is present, and the purpose for which the metal is required. Generally speaking, if the metal has to be forged, rolled, or wrought in any way, silicon is not wanted, and its presence in anything beyond a very small percentage is

injurious; whereas, if the metal is required for casting, a certain proportion of silicon has a distinctly beneficial effect in tending to keep the metal fluid, preventing "blow-holes," and so improving the quality of the castings. It is not easy to over-estimate the practical importance of an accurate knowledge of the tone-effect of silicon on iron and steel, and until recent years it cannot be said that "knowledge" really existed on the subject. The iron and steel of commerce are really highly complex compounds, and the effect of each separate ingredient is only now beginning to be understood, and Mr. Turner has had something to do with building up the knowledge which now exists upon the subject, and which is available to the ironfounder and others in need of it. Mr. TURNER said he preferred to look upon iron and steel as distinct metals; they had entirely distinct properties, and by diagrams he showed the different effects which the same proportion of silicon had upon iron from what it had upon steel; and also the effects which various proportions of silicon had upon the strength, hardness, and other mechanical properties of both iron and steel; and these effects were further illustrated by a series of specimens of fractured test-pieces of both cast and wrought metals. A discussion followed, in which Professor SMITH, and Messrs. RICHARDSON, PEIRCE, MARKS, NEWMAN, WATKINS, and KNIGHT took part; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the author.

COLLEGE NOTES.

The following is the result of the Mason College successes at the Intermediate Medicine Examination:—Entire Examination: THOMAS M. TIBBETTS, 1st division; GEORGE P. GEROME, 2nd division. Physiology excluded: JOSIAH P. TILDESLEY, 1st division. Physiology only: JAMES HUGH SPROAT, 2nd division. Mr. SPROAT has now completed the examination.

In the Preliminary Scientific Examination Mr. M. L. G. HALLWRIGHT passed the entire examination in the 2nd division. Mr. E. JONES being successful in two, and Messrs. G. J. BRANSON B.A. and J. W. HAINES in one subject, completed the examination; and Mr. R. A. BENNETT passed in one subject.

All photographers will be interested to learn that a Photographical Society has been formed as a joint sub-section of the Physical and Chemical Societies. It needs no other recommendation than that Dr. NICOL is its President. There will be one meeting a term devoted to the science of photography, and it is hoped that during the Summer Session the society will make excursions to places of photographic interest for practical purposes. The Committee consists of Dr. NICOL (President), Messrs. TUCKWELL and PUGH (Secretaries), and Messrs. SKIRROW, EMERY, BROWN, and AUSTEN.

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published at the end of May. All contributions should reach the Editor before May 9th.

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VOL. VIII.

No. 8.

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THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

MAY, 1890.

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(Conducted by Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

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CALENDAR.

June 7.—Poesy Club Excursion.
" 13.—Union. Debate.
" 14.—Cyclists' Excursion to Bewdley.
" 21.—Ditto ditto Penkridge.
" 27.—Musical Evening.
" 28.—Interclub run to Rowington.

DR. KARL DAMMANN.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Dammann, Professor of German at Mason College for nine years, who has been so closely connected with education in Birmingham. It was perhaps not generally known among the students that Dr. Dammann had for some time suffered from ill-health, as it did not prevent his conscientiously performing his usual duties; consequently, it was with somewhat of a shock that we heard of his sudden death at the house of a friend in Huddersfield, where he had intended to spend the Easter vacation.

Dr. Dammann was a native of Hanover, where he received his education, finally graduating as Doctor of Philosophy, but his life has been mainly spent in England. After a period of time spent in teaching the German language and literature at Huddersfield, he obtained the appointment of German master at King Edward's School, New Street, Birmingham, almost at the same time undertaking the conduct of the German department of the Birmingham and Midland Institute. When in 1881, the Arts Department of Mason College was founded, the trustees appointed him professor of the German language and literature. All these appointments Dr. Dammann continued to hold till the time of his death, and was also largely engaged as a private teacher.

There is, perhaps, hardly a teacher in the whole city through whose hands has passed a larger number of pupils, or whose loss will be more keenly and widely felt.

One who was closely connected with him in the work of the Deutscher Verein writes:—"Most dearly do I revere his memory, and sincerely do I hope that something will be done to perpetuate worthily the name of one who spent the best years of his life and the highest powers of his clear and genial mind in the service of this great city. It is impossible to estimate the amount of good he has done, the number that he has influenced to drink deeply and judiciously of the streams of knowledge. Artisans who attended his first classes at the Midland Institute have recalled with gratitude, twenty years after, the lessons they had received from his lips. Dr. Dammann had himself such an enthusiastic love for all that was good and noble and pure and true, that he could not fail to inspire with the same feeling all who came within reach of his influence."

In the face of such a personal tribute to his memory, we feel that it only remains to us to echo the sentiment from our hearts, and to endeavour to give some expression, however faint, to the sympathy we feel with his family, and the sense of loss which grows upon us as we realise more and more every day what his absence means.

OUR STUDENTS.

The Scientific Damsel.

The Scientific Damsel: two words, and before your jaundiced vision looms an apparition—a figure bent and worn by "lean and wasteful learning," a dress unkempt and wrinkled brow, eyes with a pensive far-away look, the intellectual spectacles adding at once an air of refinement and knowledge, hosen of a somewhat cerulean tint, and neck craned forward as if in perpetual quest after the hidden secrets of nature. Such is your vision; but alas! you are doomed to disappointment. 'Tis not in such a mould that Science casts her maidens. In fact, with shame and sorrow we confess it, the external appearance of this child of Science differs in no respect from that of the idle and frivolous girl who spends her days in sewing, domestic matters, and tennis,

save that, perhaps, with the title strangely conspicuous, she may support under her arm the pretentious works of John Stuart Mill, or Goebel, or Roscoe. But failing this, to what other reagents will she yield characteristic tests? Try "Questions." Enough: a drop and well-diluted, and this nature is revealed. As the schoolboy, in his first week of possession of a watch, "trots" it out on every possible occasion, so is the damsel with science. Instead of telling you that Birmingham mud has taken the colour out of her dress, she informs you that, owing to the amount of sulphurous acid in the air which is washed down into the mud, the dye-stuff of her dress has been deoxidised. She ceases to take a "leg of chicken" for dinner; now she regales herself on the "femur" of "gallus bankiva." "The primrose by the river's brim," a yellow primrose was not *to her:* it was a specimen of primula vulgaris—natural order "Primulaceæ." And thus the "trivial round and common task" is garnished with scientific phrase.

But it is not all science she thus graciously smiles upon: there is a wasp in that fair flower she avoids, as did the ancients the treacherous rocks of Scylla and Charybdis. At the sound of a problem, or any other mathematical device of the evil one, she gathers her maiden garments about her and stands off in ruffled dignity. Painstaking perseverance has a large and well-developed bump on her cranium, but it is not given to her to subjugate these ill-conditioned monsters. That misbegotten wretch who of his own will and accord chooses his lot with physics, preferring rather to trifle away his time with integrals and unmeaning infinities than to bask among the honeyed pleasures of geology and biology, is regarded by her as not far short of Bedlam, and with a feeling akin to pity. Experiments she likes, even if she does not understand them; and at the name of a theory she pulls herself together, the colour returns to her pallid cheek, she turns over a fresh page of her note-book, and is all attention. She loves to picture to herself the innumerable atoms darting up and down in sweet confusion, if only they would not be so insane as to be governed by any idle law of mathematics; she revels in the picture of worlds evolved from incandescent nebula. And has not she, too, got a theory for everything, from the connection between Maxwell's electric waves and the "alae cordis" to the reason why apples boil best when cut up vertically?

She has convinced herself at the outset, and that clearly, that she has been led into these paths of science by Duty and Duty

alone, and consequently she is resolved to render Duty its dues. Rather than miss a lecture, even if it were to choose herself a new hat—and patiently as she struggles against this last-remaining sinful lust of the flesh she still remains a partial victim to it—she would suffer tortures compared with which Fox's Book of Martyrs is a joke. Observing one of these damsels bemoaning her fate that the Mathematics Exam. was upon her, and she as yet unprepared, we mildly and innocently suggested she should miss it. "What!" she cried, when at length breath returned to her excited system, death from suffocation having for some minutes seemed imminent—"What! I miss an examination! Whatever would the Professors think of me? I should be ashamed to meet them again. Away, tempter of an innocent and harmless woman!" And we slunk off more wondering than repentant, but with a semi-conviction that science in all its branches would come to an untimely stand-still did she miss that examination.

Another example, prompted by this same call of duty, we will give and pass on. It is a chemistry excursion: Burton is to yield up the secrets of her brewery to the inquisitive science student. The desire to see the manufacture of the nefarious liquor in process has been weighed against repugnance to the liquor itself by one science maiden, and proved the heavier; but lest they should imagine that her presence there should lend her consent to the inhuman practice, she has donned a large and conspicuous blue ribbon, which causes the labourers to make bets as to which will be the successful university in the pending race.

Do you wonder what is the reason of her presence at the College at all? It is to teach other girls; and they will learn to teach others, and so on: and thus there will be an army of learners ever increasing in geometrical progression, all learning science to teach it to others. There are some who, with a stern determination, have startled their relatives with vows of eternal celibacy, and have set before themselves the doctor's course. We remember one such. She had risen above the preliminary stages of examining bubbles under the microscope for several hours, under the belief that they are amœbæ, and sees a real dead frog before her on the board. With unrelenting resolution, and with the fierce gleam of the butcher in her eye, she seizes the gripping forceps and scissors, pulls up her sleeves, and is ready for action. Very gently she touches the amphibian's skin; it is pliable and somewhat clammy, and she half wishes she had been started on some less nauseous animal. But courage! There are men about—they may see, and

seeing they may guess her inmost thoughts. Regardless of consequences, she grips the animal and cuts a long and yawning hole in its skin. But, O heavens! the faithless drug has but ill done its work: the pain recalls life to the sinking organism; it opens one eye and gives a feeble spasmodic kick. Enough! she sees the sorrow in its eye, she feels herself a murderess — a murderess in cold blood; the maiden's heart can bear up no longer, already it yearns towards its innocent victim; the bonds of butchery are broken, and she is supported, half-fainting, from the room. Nor can shame nor duty compel her to return again that day.

In spite of scientific soul,
Of ologies and a' that,
Of higher education, still
A girl's a girl for a' that,
For a' that and for a' that.

The Arts Student.

There is, perhaps, no one in this wide world more deserving of commiseration than the Arts Student in a science college. He is regarded first in the light of an interloper, who takes up an amount of room which might be disposed of to a much greater advantage, and who makes no return for the benefits grudgingly bestowed upon him. He is stigmatised by the more robust science student, and the infinitely more excitable medical, as tame, milk-and-water-y-fied, too good to live, &c.; and his rapt expression, placid brow, dreamy demeanour, and neatly-brushed hair are regarded as the signs of a torpid intellect and undeveloped physical constitution, rather than what they really are—the marks of a poetical and artistic soul.

The Arts Student sometimes commences college life as a casualist —*i.e.*, a student who "drops in" to a class merely for the purpose of investigation; often, however, he comes to college with a more definite purpose—viz., to try for his degree. If a lady, the Arts Student comes away from her first lecture imbued with a profound sense of reverence for the professor—a reverence which only fades to a comfortable intensity upon closer acquaintance, born of the tennis court or the wayside inn. If a man, the Arts Student behaves surpassingly well in the lecture room; he sits side by side with his male companions in the back rows; at the close of the lecture he stands, still shoulder to shoulder with his companions, against the wall of the room while the lady

students file out. He was never known to attempt, even while it was possible to do so, to slide down the bannisters: and his conduct at the Union is a model for the rowdy. He admires the Science student, as he recognises in him the qualities of steady perseverance and laborious toil; but he looks down upon him with an intense compassion when he reflects that he is spending his best energies on the minute study of small departments of knowledge, and has no time to stand aloft on the mountain top and take a comprehensive survey of knowledge in general.

An Arts Student has been known to lack proficiency in the proper manipulation of the aspirate, and to exhibit a muscle which is, to say the least, puny. He has, on the other hand, proved himself well able to conduct a lively debate, and to take his place creditably on the football field.

An Arts Student was once stung to the quick by the scornful reproach that she had never got into a scrape at college. Accordingly she determined to wipe off this blot on her escutcheon with all possible speed. The only question was, how to do it? Being naturally of an affectionate and unselfish disposition, she determined to minister to the physical needs of her Professor and class-mates by presenting each with a little light refreshment, her modest nature at the same time dictating to her that she must remain incognito. Accordingly, ascending to the Examination Room, where the class—a very large one—at that time assembled, she deposited upon each desk a small biscuit elaborately adorned with pink sugar, taking care to avoid all appearance of partiality by leaving one also on the table in front of the Professor's chair.

The general gratitude of the class to the unknown donor of the delicacy found vent in unwonted hilarity, and finally culminated in wild attempts to hit the (bull's) eye all round. The Professor, being of a very nervous disposition, and totally unable to quell the uproar so long as the disturbing element remained in the midst, was forced to descend to the infernal regions, whence he personally conducted an avenger, in the shape of the College porter, to whom was issued, in an awful tone, the fearful mandate, "Remove those biscuits." In breathless silence the command was obeyed, the porter's heaving shoulders testifying evidently to a lively anticipation of the feast in store. Totally unable to undergo the agony of an investigation of the matter, the Professor allowed the subject to drop, and the culprit remains undiscovered to this day.

The Arts Student has been known to administer a timely rebuke on the "graphic formula" system. A young, very young, gentleman who was preparing for matriculation having been observed to indulge in the pernicious habit of smoking far more than some other members of his class considered well for his health, they hit upon a plan for, metaphorically speaking, plucking up the weed. On the eve of February 14th, a mysterious packet, addressed to the object of so much solicitude, was dropped into the General Post Office; and, as more than one person knew, the packet contained the beautifully-painted picture of an infant in socks and pinafore puffing away at a tremendous cigar. That unhappy Arts Student was never seen to smoke (near College precincts) again—but he had his revenge. It was in the course of a long and tedious French lesson: the Professor had unexpectedly required from one of his students, a friend of the above-mentioned conspirators but not one of them, a piece of information which, alas! was not forthcoming. The miserable creature—as creatures under extreme torture are known to do—gazed upwards, then downwards, to the right hand, and to the left hand, then away across to the roof of the Town Hall, then, as Monsieur was becoming impatient, glanced eagerly at a sheet of paper which a gentleman student, out of the depth of his pitiful heart, passed to her from the row behind. Instead of seeing the much-required information neatly and legibly written out for her benefit, the pictorial reproof met her gaze, and the little harangue she had bravely commenced for the benefit of her heartless interrogator ended in inextricable confusion. So much merely to prove that the Arts Student tries to do his duty.

But all such frivolity and childishness is put behind the back of the Arts Student at the same time that he turns his back upon the Matric. Henceforth he is a man, with a man's aims and aspirations. He gradually attains to the knowledge that he is a member of a corporate institution, and has duties and responsibilities thereby. Seriously, we believe he tries to perform those duties and discharge those responsibilities, and upon closer intercourse with students of other departments he finds his knowledge becoming more extensive, his views wider, and his interests more varied. He steadily plods on to the final, and either takes it at a leap, or, stumbling against it, returns for a longer run. At least, we may conclude that sooner or later he "does" it, and then he turns his back on the old College, and marches off to

distant lands, probably to learn in his turn that the Arts Student is not so sweet as he looks.

The Medical Student.

To the uninitiated he appears to be a rollicking youth, full of animal spirits, with no work to trouble him, and having a total disregard for moral obligations and a sublime contempt for the powers that be. His days he appears to spend in promenading the town and lounging in billiard-saloons and drinking-bars, whilst his nightly orgies are spoken of with bated breath. Elderly men of ultra-conservative opinions will tell you, emphasising their remarks with lavish profanity, that it is such stuff as these are made of that alone can preserve the integrity of England's glory; persons of tolerant religious views say that they must be allowed their fling now, as they have such very unpleasant things to do when they are in practice; while the Scribes and Pharisees regard the class with shuddering abhorrence as the happy hunting-ground of Satan and his angels.

Let us try to get an idea of a typical medical student as he really is in all his common-placeness, and divested of the glamour in which the novelist is so fond of wrapping him; premising that we select as an example one whom anxious parents or want of ambition will not allow to enter for any of the higher examinations, since, for such as follow the higher paths, life is devoid of the material joys which those experience who tread the broad road leading to ignorance and incompetence.

When his fond parents, after much anxious thought, decide that the dear boy was evidently designed by Heaven for the medical profession, they generally seek information from such persons as, being exhaustively ignorant on the subject, are ready to give the fullest directions as to all its details. We ourselves have, but in vain, endeavoured to reform the ideas, implanted by some well-meaning criminal, of one lady, who believes that her son will take about two years to qualify, and that it will cost her about forty pounds to educate him. As he has already spent some three years in passing the preliminary examination in about as many pieces as there are subjects, we await results with some degree of interest.

In order to register as a medical student it is necessary to pass a preliminary examination. Of this so-called examination we can only say that we have known two or three cases of failure. Each

was traceable either to incorrigible laziness or complete mental incapacity. If the would-be medical student succeeds in failing in this, it is advisable for him to enter some other profession in which originality is allowed full scope—say, the Church.

But the dread ordeal is passed, and he enters the medical school. He dons "spats" and the latest things in hats, and attaches himself to a huge bludgeon and an obtrusive pipe. He begins to frequent pantomime matinées, at which he is fond of attracting public attention upon himself by his loudly expressed witticisms anent the performers; there, also, his native humour is seen at its best in his presenting cabbages and rhubard to the male performers, while at the same time he shows his gallantry by bestowing bouquets on the actresses, to which bouquets, though raised by public subscription, he has been known to append his private card. Under the influence of his enthusiasm for these performances, he has even been known to inform a Professor that Thursday afternoon is an inconvenient time for classes. His female relatives, who had expected that his dreams would be haunted by ghastly spectres accusing him of desecrating their mortal remains, and that his working hours would be spent in pensive musings and alas—poor—Yoricky soliloquies over his set of bones, are horrified when he comes home declaring that dissecting gives him an appetite, and denouncing any display of sentiment as "tommy-rot." He regales the family at meals with suggestive references to post-mortems and operations, wherein, though all duly express their horror, those who are loudest in their protestations betray a most remarkable anxiety to draw him out as to details. We were requested the other day by a sweet damsel, who would faint at the mere sight of blood, to show her some dreadful picture that she could dream over.

It is at this, the commencement of his course, that our student chooses between becoming, in due time, a respectable practitioner, and settling down comfortably as a chronic. Small is the minority which chooses the latter alternative. Chronics are those who, through sheer idleness or profound stupidity, fail repeatedly in their examinations, and remain unprogressive loafers until despairing friends or a merciful dispensation of Providence removes them to another sphere of labours. Their ultimate fate is shrouded in the same dense cloud of mystery which has hitherto concealed dead donkeys, though, as in the case of the latter, various hypotheses have been adduced in explanation. It has been suggested that they emigrate or become ship surgeons, but it must

be regarded as more probable that the mercantile classes are recruited from their ranks, since, owing to their great moral and mental obtuseness, they would seem to have been specially designed by nature for that walk in life.

In connection with the chronics, who, of course, comprise most of the black sheep, we feel bound to state that, after long and careful observation, we have been unable to discover that medical students as a class are any worse morally than other young men. In the natural course of their work they see much of the seamy side of life, with which it would be undesirable for outsiders to be acquainted; but this must not be mistaken, as it too often is, for mere coarseness and brutality.

But if our student is blessed with common sense, a modicum of brains, and fair powers of application, he will do well enough. Being absolutely without culture or proper education of any kind, his mind is well fitted to absorb the dry, unconnected statistical facts with which it must now be crammed in order that he may induce the examiners to believe that he is acquainted with the rudiments of anatomy, materia medica, &c. Such subjects as these being his mental food, who can wonder that his intellect becomes unprogressive, arid, and unfertile?

But now let us glance at such an one who has passed successfully his second year, and is engaged upon his real professional education. He is an interesting study. The majestic hauteur with which he treats the junior students and the patronising affability of his demeanour towards his seniors and superiors proclaim him to be a man of colossal intellect and acute sagacity. He affects an impressive monosyllabic mode of conversation, and his shrewdness nothing can escape, as you may tell if you watch him at his work among the out-patients. To them his manner is brusque and his remarks incisive to the verge of brutality, presumably to show that, as a man of the world, he is superior to any of those sentimental weaknesses whereby meaner minds are swayed. His self-confidence at this stage is unbounded, and it enables him to hold forth with a magnanimous disregard of fact and reason on all subjects, moral, scientific, and political—not to mention medicine and surgery, in which, of course, he is infallible.

And now at length the bogey Examination is appeased and laid to rest, and he blossoms forth into sleek Mr. So-and-so, surgeon, practising on the strength of an impressive professional manner, a black silk hat, a stethoscope, and a somewhat shaky knowledge of the action of some dozen drugs—one more humbug

licensed to prey upon the unbounded credulity of the long-suffering British public.

The Engineering Student.

It is, of course, granted on all hands that, taken collectively, there is no more important member of the College than the Engineering Student. He is looked upon not without a certain amount of awe, for his are studies with which the masculine intellect alone attempts to grapple, though it is otherwise in the supplementary branches of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Geology, with which he is expected to make himself thoroughly cognizant. To him, in addition to his comfortable, well-lighted drawing-room, is devoted the basement—those lower regions from which strange sounds arise, breaking in upon the stillness of library and class-room, and proclaiming him busy in subjecting to his will the mysterious forces of Nature.

In spite of the arduousness of his labours, he is often excessively young. Sometimes, however, he has an air of maturity, and wears an aggressive moustache. On his entrance into the College it not infrequently happens that he is totally uninitiated in the rudiments of his science. He has been known, when on a visit to works in the neighbourhood, to ask in a respectful and anxious tone when examining the engine, the motor force of all the machinery he has been examining, "What drives this machine, sir? I don't see the belt"—a trifling error such as a farm-pupil would commit if, when looking at the Bovril-advertising ox, he were to exclaim "What a well-grown horse!"

In time, however, he remedies such defects in his early education, especially if, as is generally the case, he is industrious, and writes and spells his lecture-notes so that he can afterwards decipher them.

If not too proud, he joins the Union, at whose meetings he finds an opportunity for displaying his native modesty. He crushes into one particular corner of the room, where he religiously stays throughout the time allotted for tea, taking strict care to keep whatever wit he possesses to himself. Upstairs he shows a decided preference for the back benches. He is no speaker, but he has a good appetite, and frequently suffers from cold feet. Sometimes, too, he thinks he can sing.

At the Physical Society he is a great man. He sometimes reads papers.

He has a very flourishing society of his own, of which Professor Smith is president. It meets at seven o'clock in the evening. It deals with very technical but highly interesting subjects. Some lady-students once went, but they had to go to bed early for a week afterwards. Unlike other College societies, it is equal to discussions.

In the summer, on Saturday mornings, he is sometimes to be seen measuring the length of the corridor. This he does with chains, and without undue haste. Later, armed with spiked poles and multifarious instruments, he seeks the fields for the prosecution of his art. On such occasions he not infrequently reaches the scene of action before his Professor. It is then that his yearnings after a less restrained existence overtake him, and, fancying himself a hunter on the boundless prairie, armed with his spiked pole, he has been known to give chase to the frightened cow, which, to his enkindled imagination represents the fleet-footed buffalo. Sometimes he has been known to lodge his missile in a very harmless foe—he has spiked one of his Professor's books.

Rarely he arrives on the scene with a camp-stool, a huge note-book, and a tribe of little dogs. These do not hesitate to attack the small specimen of the canine race which occasionally accompanies the Professor. In doing so they do not incur the displeasure of their master, who sits calmly on his camp-stool with his massive tome outspread on his knee, waiting for the words which, for the nonce, do not fall from the lips of the Professor.

He has been known to like a practical joke. Early in his course he learns how to manipulate his tap in the chemical laboratory so as to send a fountain spray playing lightly over the person of his opposite neighbour. He looks longingly at the hole leading into the condensing tank, thinking that a plunge into the tepid water below would not come amiss to any of his companions. But he remembers the fate of his predecessor, who, having uncovered it, stepped backwards into it himself, and found the water disagreeably hot.

Occasionally he is in danger of loss of life or limb. Once he mounted on a tar-barrel for the sake of testing a gas-engine with greater precision, and, being heavier than the tar-barrel expected, he suddenly was lost to view in its not over-clean inside. But in general he is not wanting in British pluck, and he does not go trembling to his work because he knows that fifty kilos. weights

have flown about in an unprecedented manner, or that a drilling-machine has attempted to take an arm into a too-fond embrace.

In general he is pleasant to look at, but he has been known to have a distaste for seeing the colour of his hands. He then thinks it both suitable and convenient to wear a permanent covering of oil and iron-filings. He is fond of cycling, and is often an amateur photographer. He has never proved himself an adept at football or tennis. He is not over-ready at volunteering assistance in carpentering, &c., when required by the Union. He is not so good a scene-shifter as he might be. His taste in music is not to be depended upon, and his recitations are excessively amateurish. But he uses the Queen's English much more kindly than do some of his fellows on the Arts side, and if he would only let himself be a little better known there is not a doubt but what his excellent qualities would meet with the appreciation they deserve.

THE UNION.

March 21st.—Mr. HAINES in the chair.—A debate was held on the resolution, "That the Arts course as taught in this College is of greater educational value than the Science course."—The debate was opened by Mr. A. G. IRVINE on the affirmative, and Dr. W. R. JORDAN on the negative, with speeches remarkable both by reason of a humour of deliverance which made them unreportable, and by an impertinence—*i.e.*, non-pertinence—to the resolution as laid down in the programme.—The debate was opened in earnest by Miss L. JENKYN-BROWN, who argued that, since Mathematics, Mental and Moral Science, and the Science of Language, were included in an Arts course, whatever advantages a scientific training possessed in cultivating the necessary powers, could be gained in an Arts course. In addition to this the other branches of an Arts course introduced students to the thoughts of the greatest men of the past, and enabled them to go further for themselves. History, in giving us the lessons of the past, provided help and warning for the future. An Arts course, since the object of study was man rather than nature, was superior to a Science course. A man whose education had been exclusively scientific would very probably be a fossil, unable to discuss matters with ordinary individuals, while a man who had been confined to an Arts course would appear to the world as a fairly educated man.—Miss SAXELBY seconded on the negative in an exceedingly able and closely-reasoned speech. She said the aim of an ideal education was to ensure—(1) success in life; (2) culture and happiness; (3) moral progress. These were ensured by a scientific education, which trained the observation in the collection of facts having also an intrinsic practical value, and the intellect in the deduction of theories from facts observed. Science widens its laws, and points to the conclusion that there is one law which is the unification of all laws; but unity is the highest form of beauty, which is essential to culture and happiness. Science then afforded the grandest material for culture. The beauty of nature was not destroyed by laying

bare its principles; even if it were, the outward and merely sensuous beauty of form was replaced by the nobler and grander beauty of laws and principles.—Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON, on the affirmative, said that the advantages of the scientific method could be obtained in the Arts course. A scientific education did not cultivate the imagination.—Mr. EMERY denied that science did not cultivate the imagination. When a scientist had collected a number of facts, was not his imagination brought into play in order to construct a theory to explain those facts? Science, besides being of more interest, was of greater practical value than Arts. Of what use would an Arts education be to a man wrecked on a desert island, as compared with a knowledge, say, of botany?—The debate was continued by Mr. TUCKWELL, Mr. O. JONES, Miss BARROWS (who objected to the alleged influence of science on the imagination by asking how it was that no scientist had produced any great work of imagination), Mr. INGRAM, and Mr. MALINS.—Mr. IRVING then replied, and, the vote being taken, the resolution was lost by 44 to 21.

March 28th.—MUSICAL EVENING.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair. —Miss MARGARET KEEP read a paper, taking as her subject three of the greatest living composers—viz., Brahms, as representing German music, Gadé, Danish, and Gounod, French. Johannes Brahms, who is unrivalled in the department of choral and chamber music, was born in 1833 at Hamburg, and was introduced to the world as "the Hero of the Musical Future" by an article written by Schumann. His musical career was at first a disappointing one, owing to the strong character of his style, which depends not a little on a certain roughness and sternness which is to many persons repellant. From 1861 he has made his home at Vienna, taking occasional tours as a pianist or for the purpose of conducting his own works. From 1867, when his Deutsches Requiem appeared, every new work of his has been hailed as an event in the musical life of Germany. The introduction of pianofortes as a substitute for the harpsichord, till then the chief resource of composers as a keyed instrument, by causing a change in the style of chamber music enabled Brahms to develop his pianoforte quartettes on an immense scale. As a song-writer he is placed on a level with Schumann and Schubert, and the two hundred songs which he has composed witness to the freshness and poetry of his genius. As illustrations of Brahms's style as a pianoforte composer and as a song-writer two duets were given by Miss DARE and Miss WOOD, and a song, "Wiegenlied," by Miss MARTIN.

Miss Keep next proceeded to sketch the life of Gadé, one of the most gifted and accomplished of living composers and conductors. He was born in 1817 at Copenhagen, and in 1844 attracted the attention of the musical world by his symphony, overtures, and pianoforte solos, and his Ossian Overture obtained in 1841 the prize of the Copenhagen Musical Union, the King granting him at the same time a royal stipend. From 1845–6 he acted as sub-conductor to Mendelssohn at Leipzig. Miss Keep read an interesting letter from the great composer to his young friend, in which he expressed the high esteem in which he regarded him. After having established the Philharmonic Concerts at Copenhagen, Gadé paid a visit to England in 1876 to conduct, at the Birmingham Musical Festival, his "Zion" and the "Crusaders." His cantata "The Earlking's Daughter," is perhaps one of his best-known compositions. Although Gadé has made Mendelssohn and

Schumann his models, he has struck out new and original paths for himself, his music is decidedly national in its character, and his symphonies are described as "pictures of nature with a poetical element throughout." The illustrations of this composer given during this portion of the paper were a sonata for the violin by Miss BENNETT; a chorus from "The Earlking's Daughter" by Misses A. M. KEEP, L. J. CHARLES, WOOD, and DARE, and Messrs. BROCKINGTON, SAPEY, and COPE; and two of the "Aquarellen" by Dr. ALLEN.

Charles Francis Gounod, selected by Miss Keep as an example of living French composers, was born in 1818. In 1839 his cantata, "Marie Stuart et Rizzio," obtained a second "Prix de Rome," and in 1839 he won "le grand Prix" for his cantata "Fernand." In 1841 he produced a "Messe Solennelle," for equal voices and full orchestra, which was performed in 1841, and a mass in 1843, for which he received the title "Maître de Chapelle." His first appearance in London was on the occasion of the performance of the "Messe Solennelle" in 1851. Between that year and 1858 he produced in succession his first opera "Sapho," several choruses for Ponsard's tragedy "Ulysse," "La Nonne Sanglanti," and "Le Médecin malgré lui," arranged from Molière's comedy. In 1859 Gounod produced his great work, the opera of "Faust," which placed him at once in the front rank of living composers. In 1869 "Faust" was thoroughly revised by its composer, and reproduced with immense success at the Grand Opera, Paris. Grove says of him—"In the chords of his orchestra, majestic as those of a cathedral organ, we recognise the mystic; in his soft and original melodies, the man of pleasure." The selections from Gounod's music, given as illustrations, were a song, "Ce que je suis," by Miss A. M. Keep; song, "Oh! that we two were maying," Mr. Sapey; a violin solo, "La Colombe," Miss Bennett; song, "Nazareth," Mr. Adams (visitor); song, "The Worker," Miss A. M. Keep; and the Soldiers' Chorus from "Faust," by Messrs. Adams, Cope, W. A. and A. A. Brockington, Howard, Keep, and Miners.

At the conclusion of the paper, a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Keep and the ladies and gentlemen who, with her, had provided so pleasant an evening for the Union, was proposed by Professor HILLHOUSE, seconded by Mr. LEDSAM, and carried unanimously.

May 2nd.—This evening was devoted to tableaux, which proved most successful. They illustrated the fairy tale of "The Sleeping Beauty," the account of which, given by Andrew Lang as well as the poem entitled "The Daydream," by the Poet Laureate, was read after a few introductory remarks by Professor HILLHOUSE. The first tableau represented the old woman at work with her spinning-wheel, and was extremely effective. Miss Barrows, who represented the witch, had succeeded in making herself look strikingly weird, and the solitary figure with the spinning-wheel stood out well against the sombre hangings which draped the stage. The second tableau, which illustrated the entrance of the Princess, represented by Miss Marian Lloyd, was also very good. The third tableau represented the fool, the butler, and the maid overtaken by the sleep which fell upon all within the palace walls. Miss McCardie represented the maid, and Messrs. Myers and Tuckwell the fool and butler respectively. This tableau was one of the most effective and best grouped of the series, and provoked a deserved encore. A table occupied the centre, at one end of which sat the butler, fast asleep, his half-drained

glass in his hand, while opposite him was the fool, the centre being occupied by the maid with a half-wiped dish in her hand, standing with closed eyes. The fourth represented the cook (Miss Keep) overtaken by sleep as she was in the act of boxing the page's (Mr. C. K. W. Wallis) ears. The fifth represented the Princess and maids asleep, the maids being Miss M. Brooks and Miss S. Marris. The light was hardly strong enough when diffused over the large space required for this tableaux and, unfortunately, the Princess did not fulfil the description in the poem in wearing her hair down. The sixth represented the arrival of the Prince (Mr. Ralph Keep, who was unrecognisable in a flowing wig); and the seventh, which was very good, represented the awakening of the Princess at the touch of the Prince. Then came the page and cook awakened. This was excellent, and provoked much laughter. The attitudes of the two characters were vigorous and expressive. Then the fool, butler, and maid, hardly as still as they were when sleeping, but as effective as ever; and then the departure of the Princess. In this the Prince and Princess were the central figures, while the maids knelt beside the Princess, who turned from the Prince to bid them farewell. At the conclusion a well-arranged tableau in which all the characters appeared was shown, in which, in spite of the beauty and pretty costumes of the other ladies, the witch was not by any means the least striking figure.—A vote of thanks, proposed by Miss E. J. LLOYD, seconded by Mr. BECK, terminated the proceedings. The arrangements, which were made by a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Hillhouse, Howard, and Myers, and Misses L. J. Charles, Keep, and Lloyd, were deserving of great praise. The stage and lighting arrangements were due to Mr. Howard, who was assisted by other gentlemen accustomed to such work for our dramatic performances. Last, but not least, the pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the appropriate and charmingly rendered selections performed by Miss Beatrice Keep.

May 9th.—Mr. HAINES in the chair.—The evening was occupied by a debate on the resolution, "That the Liquor Traffic of this country could best be regulated by some system of Local Option."—Mr. J. MALINS, in moving the resolution, stated that the alarming consumption of drink as shown in the Budget by the £1,800,000 increase of revenue from alcoholic liquors, and the overwhelming superfluity of drinkshops, urgently demanded that some remedy should be applied, both to lessen existing public-houses and to prevent new licenses from being issued. Mr. Goschen's proposed sum of £357,000 for buying out public-houses was utterly inadequate, and nothing but giving the people the direct control of a traffic which affected them so nearly would bring about any significant change for the better. The magistrates, in dealing with licensing, had in many cases grossly abused their power, and seldom, if ever, exercised it in refusing to grant a new license when an old one had expired. Local option was not necessarily a remedy proposed by teetotalers, but that many moderate drinkers and most drunkards would be glad to get rid of the liquor traffic. Local option had not been unheard of in England. Sir W. Lawson's Permissive Bill of 1864 was too advanced for the House of Commons of that time, but public opinion had since vastly changed, as is evident by the great reduction made since then in the hours during which intoxicants can be sold.

The Gladstone Ministry had pledged itself to the direct veto by passing Sir W. Lawson's local option resolution, but this question, like many others, had been shelved by the Irish question. Local option existed in Canada, many British Colonies, and in ten of the United States—countries as democratic and liberty-loving as England. As to the question of compensating the publicans who were refused new licenses, Mr. Malins pointed out that compensation was without precedent, was never dreamt of in America and the British Colonies, that the publican held his license "for one whole year and no longer," and that in America laws were in force providing that publicans should compensate the public for damage done by their trade to the community. He did not, however, press this, seeing that local option might exist with or without compensation, but merely asked the Union to vote that a traffic which so closely touched and so often injured the people should be directly regulated by the people.—Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON, opening on the negative, objected very strongly to the motion on the ground of personal liberty. It was inevitable that in political and diplomatic questions the majority should have power to rule the *opinions* of the minority; but it was an absolutely false position which gave the majority power to rule the *stomachs* of the minority. The acknowledgment of such a principle would at once strike a fatal blow at the very basis of English liberty, the liberty of the individual to think and act for himself in personal matters. As examples of the demoralising effect upon the masses of the population consequent upon the abolition of the public-house, Mr. Brockington referred to the state of society in Maine, the happy hunting-ground of the contrabandist, and the proprietor of the bogus club and shebeen—a state of affairs which the report of the Royal Commission and the action of Lord Aberdeen told us had been repeated in the early months of 1889 in South Wales, owing to the closing of the public-houses on one day of the week only. The speaker earnestly supported Mr. Goschen's policy of gradually buying up the valueless public-house property of the court and alley. With Lord R. Churchill he considered non-compensation for loss of license an act of "confiscation, spoliation, and robbery." By the letter of the law the publican's license was only guaranteed for one year, but there is no denying the fact that in reality we have allowed the publicans of this country to enter on business on the distinct understanding that their licenses would be renewed at the expiration of the year, save in cases of misuse. Nothing could be shabbier or more calculated to disgust an honest and fair-dealing public than to deprive a publican of his license without compensation because it is granted nominally for a year only. It was, however, impossible to expect that the masses of the British public would submit to be taxed in order to pension off a body of men who are now gaining an honest and legitimate livelihood. It was this very impossibility to do that which was equitable and right, to compensate for loss of license, which rendered local option an impracticable measure.—Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON seconded on the affirmative. He disclaimed any sympathy with extreme views. He then attempted to show by quotations from the evidence of the Convocation of Canterbury (1869), of the Forbes Mackenzie Act (1854), and the Clerical Memorial of 1876, that an increase in public-houses produced an increase in drunkenness,

a supposition on which every system of local option is based. With regard to public liberty, he contended that the measure was not to interfere with the liberty of the people, but to give the people the right to interfere. He preferred to leave the question of compensation to the consideration of experienced financiers, and to fall in with any measure passed by an impartial majority of the House. The agitation for local option had already indirectly produced good results by forcibly drawing the attention of the Government to the overwhelming superfluity of licenses.—Mr. O. JONES seconded on the negative. Although himself a total abstainer, he was unable to follow the temperance party in the violent legislation which they desired. He condemned the interference with personal liberty which would be caused by the direct veto, which was an essential part of any effective measure of local option. To take away a publican's license without compensation was unjust. A vested interest in licenses was recognised by the spirit and precedents of the law if not by the letter of the law for a publican whose license had not been renewed by the magistrates had the power of appeal to a higher court, the value of the license was taken into account in estimating probate duty, and compensation was always paid for compulsory purchase.—Mr. MARKS, speaking on the negative, argued that it was most unjust to refuse a man compensation after he had gone to the expense of fitting up a shop. Would he have gone to such an expense if he had thought it likely that he would be deprived of his license at the end of a year?—Mr. HALL (visitor), in supporting the negative, combated Mr. Malins's statement that there were 6,000,000 drunkards in the kingdom. Local option was born of mistrust of the people. It was the thin edge of the wedge, and would lead ultimately to prohibition. It was no more possible to make people sober by law than to make them religious.—Mr. EMERY said that he would like to see a great reduction in the number of public-houses, but did not think that local option was the right way to effect the purpose. He would prefer that the question should be decided, not locally, but nationally, on account of the expense of local government. Why should selling beer be an offence in one part of the country and not in another? Local option would only be adopted in places where sober people were in a great majority, and where, consequently, it was least needed.—Mr. AUSTIN considered that men should be persuaded, not forced, to rule their tastes and appetites. The result of local option would simply be a monopoly for the publicans whose licenses had not been taken away. Mr. MALINS having briefly replied, the vote was taken, with the result that the resolution was lost by 21 votes to 15.

POESY CLUB.

Tuesday, May 6th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—Miss LINDSAY read a paper on the Poems of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Rossetti was born in 1828, and began to write poems at an early age, while at the same time exhibiting so marked a propensity towards painting that his parents intended art as his future profession. He studied at the Royal Academy, and exhibited there his picture, "The Girlhood of Mary Virgin." One gathers even from his poems that he was as much painter as poet, many of them conveying the effect as of a picture. Rossetti was a member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, in whose magazine, the *Germ*, many of his poems first appeared. The principal of his pictures are well known to the frequenters of our Art and

Picture Galleries, and while they were springing up beneath his brush his pen was not less active. Some of his finest poems are "The Blessed Damozel," written in 1847, "The Portrait," "My Sister's Sleep," "The Staff and Scrip," "The Last Confession," "The Burden of Nineveh," and "Sister Helen." Rossetti's first volume of poems, a translation of Dante's Vita Nuova, together with many of his lyrics and those of his contemporaries, was published in 1861 under the name, "Early Italian Poets," which, in a late edition was altered to "Dante and His Circle." The death of the poet's wife, after a married life of only two years, threw a melancholy shade over his life, and for some time he ceased to write, and began that indulgence in chloral which ruined his health. In 1870 appeared his first volume of poems, entitled merely "Poems," which gained immediate success by virtue of its innate qualities of beauty and strength. Dante Rossetti's sonnets are remarkable for their perfect finish and "arduous fulness," and were published under the title of "The House of Life." The whole collection forms a record of his feelings and readings of the problems of existence, and it is mainly from them that Robert Buchanan drew his impression of Rossetti as a poet, and was led to accuse him of covenanting with Swinburne and William Morris to "extol fleshliness as the distinct and supreme end of poetic and pictorial art." Rossetti has written several beautiful ballads, chief among them being "Rose-Mary," "The White Ship," and "The King's Tragedy." In 1881 appeared a volume entitled "Ballads and Sonnets," and in 1882 the poet died, "if not a prophet with a prophet's message to deliver, yet at least a sweet singer, and one who has painted for us many a thing of beauty."

During the course of the paper, illustrations of Rossetti's poems were given by Miss Brooks, who read "The Blessed Damozel" and "The White Ship," and Miss Lindsay, who read "My Sister's Sleep," "Cloud Confines," and several of the sonnets.

The interest of the meeting was enhanced through the kindness of Mr. KINETON PARKES, who exhibited a beautifully bound copy of the *Germ* (the four numbers of which originally cost one shilling each, while the last set, in original covers, was sold for six guineas); "Novelle Morali," two small volumes of tales in Italian, by Gaetano Palidori, Rossetti's grandfather, with the author's inscription, and also an inscription by Mr. W. Michael Rosetti; an autograph letter and a signed cheque of Rossetti; and thirty engravings and other reproductions of various pictures and studies by Rossetti.

After some remarks by Mr. PARKES, a vote of thanks to Miss Lindsay for her paper, and to Miss Brooks and Mr. Parkes for the assistance they had given, was proposed by Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, M.A., seconded by Dr. ALLEN, and carried.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—*Wednesday, March 12th.* Thirteen members present. Dr. TILDEN in the chair. Mr. BECK read a paper on "The Crystalline Substances Obtained from the Various Species of Citrus," the result of investigations which Dr. Tilden and he have been making into the nature and composition of those substances. The paper is to be found in the Journal of the Chemical Society of Great Britain.—After a short discussion, Mr. WILSON read a paper on the analysis of insoluble silicates, using red oxide of lead as a flux. A discussion about the advantages of the

method followed, in which Dr. TILDEN, Mr. BECK, Mr. LIVERSEEGE, and Mr. GLENNIE took part.—After a vote of thanks to Mr. Beck and Mr. Wilson the proceedings terminated.

May 17th.—Seventeen members present.—Mr. INGRAM showed a number of interesting flame tests for various metals.—Mr. HILL exhibited a collection of pharmaceutical compounds which he had prepared in the laboratory. Dr. TILDEN then took the chair.—Messrs. Horwitch, Hadley, and Bowie were elected members. Mr. SUDBOROUGH, B.Sc., read a paper entitled "Recent Researches on the Sugars, with special reference to the work of Fischer and Kiliani." Mr. Sudborough gave a brief account of Kiliani's researches on the constitution of the more important glucoses, and, after mentioning the synthesis of a glucose known as acritose by E. Fischer, showed how this latter chemist had produced several of the common glucoses together with some new ones from this synthetical product.—Dr. TILDEN congratulated Mr. Sudborough on the lucid manner in which he treated so complex a subject. Summarising the paper, Dr. Tilden observed that though the methods given by Mr. Sudborough could not yet be used by manufacturers, they might lead eventually to processes of practical value commercially. The discussion was continued by Dr. MARSHALL, and at its close a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Sudborough for his paper.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—A meeting was held in the College on the 16th of April; present, twenty-four members. Professor R. H. SMITH in the chair.—Mr. J. KNIGHT read a paper on the use of cast and wrought iron for pipes, and the relative advantages of the two materials, especially as affected by the various practical considerations of original cost, strength, cost of transport, &c., and pointed out why a heavy cheap material like cast-iron, which was almost invariably used for such work in this country, was altogether unsuitable when the pipes had to be transported to great distances, and probably submitted to much rough usage and great risks of fracture.—Mr. R. PIERCE followed by reading a paper on the use of steel for making pipe mains, and described the various processes for making riveted and welded pipes from steel plates, forming the collars and sockets on the pipes; and pointed out the qualities of steel necessary to ensure success when the pipes were made with welded joints.—Mr. T. ARNALL then read a paper on the various joints used for different kinds of work, and the testing of the pipes at the works of the manufacturer, and also after they had been laid in the trenches.—The three papers were taken as one, and the reading of them was followed by a lengthy discussion, in which Messrs. RICHARDSON, ASHFORD, LANGFORD, MARKS, TILL, WELCH, and WHEATLEY took part.—A vote of thanks to the writers of the papers terminated the proceedings.

CYCLISTS' CLUB.

FROM THE PEDESTRIAN STANDPOINT.

The Cyclists' Club is to be congratulated on the auspicious commencement of the present season, the somewhat unsettled weather which has attended the first three runs having merely proved to the club that it may be independent of climatic disturbances, and that even if one does get a wetting, one soon dries on a machine, while few colds are contracted in this way. As

yet, however, the cyclists have had no really wet Saturdays, but merely the "rain at times, with bright intervals," which the *Daily Post* is so fond of forecasting.

On April 26th the first run of the season took place to Rednall Hill, Lickey, when, attracted doubtless by the extremely satisfied expression on the face of the cyclist who figured so prominently on the club notice-board, ten cyclists and ten *bonâ fide* pedestrians, as in the evening they proved themselves to be, met for tea in the hospitable kitchen of Mrs. Downward. Afterwards a visit was of course paid to the Monument, and as, alas! the landscape lay bathed in an impenetrable mist, we were forced to close our eyes and recall to our minds the elaborate description of the surrounding country which our Secretary had placed upon the notice-board. After a ramble over the hill the party started homeward in its two detachments, and so ended what we believe is the first expedition which did not include in the programme of its proceedings a detailed study of ecclesiastical architecture.

On May 3rd an exceedingly pleasant trip was made to Meriden. Cyclists and pedestrians alike "took it" by way of the beautiful little village of Berkswell, with its incomparably lovely lanes, its old-fashioned Church porch, and its village stocks. At Meriden we made for the Church, as a matter of course, meeting there most opportunely an old Masonian, who supplied us with the key, and from the Church door to the organ being but a step our musical members were immediately in requisition. After tea at the "Bull's Head" the cyclists started for a good spin along the Coventry Road, and the rest of us walked to Hampton-in-Arden for the Birmingham train. Here a pathetic incident occurred which proves the cruel tendency of the effect of scientific training to damp the ardour of the poet and the lover of nature. About a dozen of us were quietly promenading the silent platform, which was bathed in the glorious light of the full moon, when suddenly we beheld the opposite bank glowing with the sparkling gems of countless glow-worms. How we revelled in the sight of these atoms of unconscious brilliancy, how we pointed them out to those of our number who had never seen a glow-worm before, how we felt the poetical instinct rapidly springing to life within us, and how our hearts sank with a sickening revulsion when one of our party, of more extensive experience than the rest, joining us at that moment explained that the objects of our admiration were small particles of—probably an old bottle—shining in the rays of the moon. Straightway from poets we became philosophers, and murmured "it does not much matter, if they are not glow-worms they look as if they were."

May 10th saw us, a dozen or so in number, inspecting the sleepy little town of Lichfield, parading the streets, visiting the market-place, examining the churches, and "leaving the best (the Cathedral) till last." At four o'clock we attended the service, and had the enjoyment of hearing the beautiful anthem, "Let the wicked forsake his way," by Roberts, with its tenor solo, which was exceedingly well sung, and its sweet refrain, in which the boys' voices add such pathetic charm. After service a thorough inspection of the Cathedral was made, for the majority of our party were paying their first visit to the city. At the rendezvous we met the cyclists, and together with the Lichfieldites, we were spectators of what is evidently the event of utmost importance on a Saturday, the departure of the coach for Birmingham. After tea it was decided to walk

to Sutton, a distance of eight miles, and where we arrived a few minutes too late for the train. As we had some time to wait, and thinking that we could not do better than institute the introduction of another meal into the cycling excursion, we adjourned into the shop which was once Pattison's, for supper. Then by 10.20 train home.

Yet once more! On May 17th our club visited Arley and Fillongley, the splendid condition of the roads tempting the majority of the party to cycle. The bright spring sunshine brought into conspicuous relief the fresh, green, luxuriant foliage and set off to best advantage the surrounding country, of which one gets at times such an extensive view. At the "Bell" at Fillongley we met another large club, with many of the members of which we were acquainted, and which included in its number the Chief Magistrate of our city. Over this party we had the immense advantage of being fewer in number, and consequently quicker served with tea. In the evening, after a reluctant parting with the cyclists, whom we believe to have reached home safely and at a somewhat respectable hour, we, the pedestrians started to ramble via Maxstoke to Whitacre. After many anxious speculations as to the points of the compass, and numerous enquiries addressed to the intelligent peasantry, we found ourselves at Maxstoke, much to our delight, and somewhat to our surprise, for the sun evidently did *not* set in the west, the map was *not* trustworthy, the old women seemed banded together to lead us astray, and every boy we met was a stranger to the place. Maxstoke Priory is an old ruin which is becoming fast incorporated with the out-buildings of a farm-house, and is interesting in this respect as resembling Hales Owen and Pinley Abbeys. We believe it is of historical importance, but as it was somewhat late in the day, the man with the guide-book for visitors had gone home to bed.

After a walk of about two miles, in the course of which a raid on a bluebell wood was made, we reached Whitacre Station, exactly, thanks to our love of flowers, five minutes late for our train. As the next was not due for two hours the question arose how most profitably to pass the time. By using personal influence at the lodge (*i.e.*, the passport of the Professor's card) we obtained an entrance into the grounds of Hams Hall, or what remains of it. In the gloom and stillness of gathering night we wandered along the drive, which extends for one mile, until the ghost of the ruined mansion loomed before us. Recalling to ourselves all the weird stories we had ever heard about the inhabitants of haunted dwellings, and relating these stories for the comfort of our companions, starting now and again at the ghostly bark of a dog, or the clanking of chains, or the flickering of supernatural lights, we prowled about. After peering among a heap of *debris*, scattered on the lawn which skirts the drive, in search of some sacred relic, but giving up in despair since everything seemed to be either the hind or fore quarters of a bedstead, we scaled a few ladders which stood out as the precursors of restoration, and finally decided to return to the station. We were somewhat surprised to find three paths opening up before us, where before we had seen only one, all exactly similar, leading directly up to the house, but away *from* it, in widely divergent directions. Opinions as to which was the right path being equally divided, since in the dim light it was impossible to discern any landmark in the distance, not even the tall chimney of the Shustoke Reservoir, we finally selected the path to the extreme left. After a walk of about half-a-mile we

came to the conclusion that everything around us was entirely unfamiliar and that we had made a mistake. Turning off abruptly, therefore, to the right we made across the open park till we reached the path which led to the right, and this we followed till we arrived at a lodge—*a* lodge, but alas! not *the* lodge. For we found to our alarm that we had reached a part of the park quite in a different direction to the part at which we had entered, and that it was necessary to retrace our steps to the Hall and to start afresh. Fearing to trust any more to our impressions, whether first or second ones, we secured the services of the lodge-keeper, who conducted us back to the house and started us on the right path—of course the very one along which we had started at first but afterwards quitted. A quick walk of a mile brought us to the lodge gates, and a moment later saw us safely in the train, homeward bound.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Girton Review, though bearing witness to much enthusiasm and intellectual activity amongst the students of that College, is scarcely interesting to outsiders, being, in fact, only intelligible to the initiated. The account of the work of the Women's University Settlement, Southwark, to some extent redeems the number from this accusation.

In *Laurel Leaves* we find the usual Discussion Society Papers, which this this term being concerned with "English Kindergartens" and "Charlotte Brontë" of themselves constitute an interesting number. "Boom-Boom" is a pretty story it is well to accept it as this and make no deeper examination of it. We are not sure whether the stories in "The Children's Corner" are quite the right sort of thing for the purpose, but then, perhaps we are not now young enough, nor yet quite old enough to judge rightly of this. "A Conceit" is apparently a reproof in disguise. We have ever doubted the wisdom of these methods of criticism, especially for the young. The story, which is listened to with growing interest till, suddenly, the blighting personal application becomes manifest, is even more calculated to foster infant cynicism than the powder-hiding preserve still remembered.

The Owens College Magazine opens with an argument, entitled "Did Hamlet fail in action?" in which the author brings forward very conclusive evidence that, so far from this, the routine theory of critics, being true, Hamlet, "so far as was possible under difficult conditions, despite his self-reproachful and, judging from the Ghost, inherited prolixity of speech, never failed in action." Travel and geographical information still help largely to fill the pages of this magazine.

The Institute Magazine.—"A Silent Force" is the title of one of the articles in this magazine. We are informed that "its energy is not evident to the unscientific mind," and are accordingly surprised to hear that the "silent force" is *not* the *Institute Magazine*. In fact, as Mr. Micawber would say, it is a draught of air. There is an excellent article entitled "Report," marred, however, by some uncertain grammar, *e.g.*, "A lecture was given by Mr. A. Cresswell on the mechanism of the Art Gallery Clock, which was illustrated with models," but perhaps the clock was actually so ornamented. We did not observe it. A melancholy poem, "On the Staircase," maintains the level of its second line all through. Its second line is—"Mingling

with the eager throng of those of knowledge in pursuit." Further on the poet remarks, with a sudden burst of bold originality, "Let us work ere night-time cometh." We don't agree at all; we find it impossible to get on without our three or four hours' work after tea. The rest of the magazine is filled up with the usual harmless necessary stamp of article. We cannot say the number is a very exciting one.

The King Edward's School Chronicle is very naturally principally occupied by an account of the life of Bishop Lightfoot. Patriotic exultations over the Old Edwardians, who won the Midland Counties Cup, leave little room for other matter.

We have also received *Our Magazine*, *The University College of Wales Magazine*, and *The Clewer House School Magazine*.

COLLEGE NOTES.

The attention of the students is drawn to the fact that there are two gold medals open for competition, the Heslop medal and the Constance Naden medal. It is particularly hoped that the number of the competitors and the quality of their work shall justify the award of the medals, as the one was not given last year, and the other is open for competition for the first time.

Since the last issue of the *Magazine* the death has occurred of two ladies who were once well-known members of the Union—viz., Mrs. EDWIN PEARSON (perhaps known better by her maiden name, Miss Fanny Hadley,) and Mrs. JEFREE (Miss Dora White).

Intimation has been received of the marriage of Mr. W. COLLINGWOOD WILLIAMS, B.Sc.(Lond,), to Miss ADA B. GAMAN. Mr. Williams was one of the earliest students of the College, and at one time editor of the *Magazine*.

The *Magazine* offers, in the name of the students, a welcome to Dr. T. RHYMER MARSHALL, who has lately joined the College as Demonstrator in the Chemical Department.

Mr. T. BEAZELEY has passed the Primary Examination for the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons. As this was Mr. Beazeley's first attempt at this extremely difficult examination, he is to be congratulated on his distinguished success.

Miss J. E. PEMBERTON, of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, formerly a student of this College, has gained a 1st class in Classics at Moderations. This is the highest reward for classical scholarship granted by the University.

The Poesy Club Excursion to Windsor has been fixed for June 7th. The price of tickets, including railway fare, lunch, and tea, is 10s. 6d. for members, 11s. 6d. for outsiders. Application for tickets should be made immediately to Miss Charles, Carpenter Road.

The next number of the *Magazine* will appear on June 27th. All contributions, reports, &c., should reach the Editor not later than June 14th.

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THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

JUNE, 1890.

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The Associateship.
The Good Gray Poet.
Poesy Club Excursion to Windsor.
The Union.
Poesy Club.
Cyclists' Club.
Scientific Societies.
Our Contemporaries.
College Notes.

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JOURNAL WORKS LTD.

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THE

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BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

NOVEMBER, 1890.

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Correspondence.

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VOL. IX.

No. 1.

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Mason College Magazine.

(Conducted by the Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

No. 1, Vol. IX. **NOVEMBER, 1890.** Price 6d.

CALENDAR.

November 10.—Monday.—Biological Association: Annual Meeting.
" 14.—Friday.—Union: Paper.
" 24.—Monday.—Biological Association: Botany.
" 25.—Tuesday.—Poesy Club: Annual Meeting.
" 28.—Friday.—Union: Debate.

December 5.—Friday.—Union: Paper.
" 8.—Monday.—Biological Association: Zoology.
" 9.—Tuesday.—Poesy Club: "The Favourite Female Characters in Shakespeare."
" 19.—Friday.—Union: Musical Evening.

EDITORIAL.

The *Magazine* is now entering upon its ninth year, and, having attained so ripe an age, great anticipations are awakened in our minds of what we may expect of it. Eight years is a good spell of life for most things in this rapidly-moving century of ours, and we expect some worthy token of maturity in such a period. Let the present year of the *Magazine* be witness to such maturity; and in aid thereof may we offer a few suggestions as to the mode in which its long-hoped-for excellence may be brought about.

First of all, it is desirable that the *Magazine* should be *popular* in character: that while it still retains the dignity of its literary excellence, it should at the same time be interesting and intelligible to all. One great aid to this would be a change in the nature of the Reports sent in to us of the various Societies, and other social proceedings of the College. Hitherto, apparently, many of our Reporters have been of opinion that they have fulfilled their duties when they have merely furnished a bare list of events, thereby representing as graphic a picture of our College life as a novelist would do of his hero by tabulating

the incidents of his career. Let the Writer give relief to his own mind, and to the dulness of his readers, by pouring out his personal feelings on the subject. We want the colour of individuality to lend piquancy to his pictures, and the expression of intelligent approval or criticism for the encouragement or edification of the performers who are the subjects of his article.

And then, again, in regard to "College Notes" we feel there is much room for improvement. We shall welcome news of every kind which concerns the College, and we hope that those of our pages which are devoted to this species of information will be filled with chatty and spirited contributions.

We should be glad, too, to devote a larger portion of our space to "Correspondence." There must be many things which are continually being brought before the notice of students, and in connection with which they wish to receive information or to express an opinion. Correspondence, too, is a good way of calling forth various views upon subjects, and thus getting new light and new ideas of a most valuable nature. There is nothing so conducive to healthy and vigorous development as ventilation.

In conclusion, we make a most urgent appeal to every student to give us his or her heartiest support in our endeavour to extend the usefulness and popularity of this our highly valuable organ, the *Magazine*.

MR. CHARLES GREENE.

The Mason Science College is still a young institution, and the obituary roll of its students fortunately short: but, however that list may be doomed to be extended in course of time, never surely will there be recorded deaths under circumstances more painful than attach to those which it is now our melancholy duty to chronicle. All our readers probably know that Messrs. Charles Greene and H. J. Thomson were drowned while boating off Conway during the recent summer holidays, together with two ladies and four boatmen who had accompanied them. No one of the party having survived, and no eye-witness of the disaster having ever been forthcoming, we know nothing as to the cause of the accident. The party set forth one day from Conway, and during the succeeding days their bodies were found, one by one, at various parts of the Conway Bay. This only we can say: that neither

inexperience nor carelessness can have been even a contributory cause, and that, at the last moment, no chance of saving life that ingenuity could espy and courage seize would be left untried.

The Union has already given expression to the regret felt by all its members, but especially those of longest standing, at the loss of Mr. Greene. In its earliest years he was one of the leading lights of the Union, and in the Session 1883-4 presided over its meetings as Chairman. And although of late years he perhaps specialised his attention in the direction of dramatics, he was ever an ardent and valued supporter of the Union generally. Of the Dramatic Performances, he was the originator and leader. He made them possible; he designed and superintended (himself doing the lion's share of the work) the making within the College walls of the old stage, which used to be put up in the Chemistry Theatre. He stage-managed the first dramatic performance—*Ion*—so successfully as at once to make the annual play an important College, almost a town, event. In each succeeding production his energies, as actor, manager, or both, were untiring, and he had been chosen stage-manager for 1891.

In what are usually deemed more serious matters Mr. Greene's energy and ability still led him to the front, and though, as a medical student, his connection with the College classes was brief, we may recall that he was the first Honorary Demonstrator in the Physiological Department, and had recently been elected an Associate of the College. Those who had the privilege of personal intimacy with Mr. Greene found in him qualities of mind and a disposition which made him a most valued friend: by such he is indeed missed. To the members of his own family his death must have been a fearful blow, and to them we tender our deepest and most respectful sympathy.

Mr. Thomson was but little known at Mason College, being a Queen's College student. There he was extremely popular, a leader in athletics, and well up to the mark in his medical studies. His more immediate friends know well that in his case too, a good man has been lost.

PRESENTATION TO DR. NICOL.

The conclusion of the past session will be happily chronicled in the records of the Chemical Society. We refer to the recent marriage of Dr. Nicol. All students who have worked in the Laboratory cannot have failed to be most favourably impressed

by the pleasant relationship existing between the teaching staff and the students. The event of Dr. Nicol's marriage was felt to be an opportune occasion to mark, in his case, our appreciation of his courteous and genial manner, and of the help and encouragement he is ever so ready to give in the pursuit of what, under ordinary circumstances, might be found to be a too tedious and difficult curriculum.

On the afternoon of Friday, June 20th, a meeting of past and present students (Dr. Tilden, Mr. Turner, and Dr. Marshall being also present) took place in Dr. Tilden's room, for the purpose of conveying to Dr. Nicol their good wishes for his future happiness and successful career, and to request his acceptance of a *souvenir*, consisting of a case of cutlery and plate, accompanied by an address with the names of those who took part.

Mr. Spilsbury, as chairman, in a speech which we need not here recapitulate, but which thoroughly expressed the sentiments of those present, presented the address. Dr. Nicol, in a few well-chosen words, feelingly acknowledged the expression of the good understanding between himself and the students.

Dr. Tilden ably supplemented the Chairman's remarks and emphasized the importance and necessity of maintaining in the future the existing pleasant intercourse between professors and students. Some advice offered by him on the more practical side of important social and domestic questions was fully appreciated by his hearers. The meeting, which will be remembered as a pleasant reunion, then terminated by wishing Dr. Nicol "God speed, and every future happiness."

COLLEGE NOTES.

The fact that a serious gap has been caused by the departure of two of the most distinguished students of the College is now being thrust upon the attention of all. Miss Charles's departure for Newnham simultaneously with Miss Edwards' leaving to take a post at Cheltenham College must be regarded as little short of disastrous, and we fear that worthy successors will be hard to find. It would be useless to attempt to recapitulate here the manifold services rendered to the College and to their fellow-students by these two ladies; we can only wish them every success in their respective spheres of labour.

We take this opportunity of warmly congratulating Mr. C. F. M. Ward on his appointment to the post of Lecturer and

Demonstrator in Physiology, rendered vacant by the resignation of Dr. J. F. Jordan. We are glad to see that the Council has realised the wisdom of continuing to elect old students of the College to this important post.

The notice which the Common Room Committee recently posted on the notice-board has occasioned no little surprise in some quarters. We are informed, on reliable authority, that this body really has the right, as their notice implies, of refusing, if it sees fit, the use of the Common Room to other College Societies. Now, although the Common Room admirably fulfils the function of a social drain-pipe to the College, we feel that the powers vested in those who administer its affairs are of a somewhat anomalous character. We would point out that the Authorities will not allow of any meeting of students such as used to take place in the room, and which were alleged to be Social Evenings; the reason being, we believe, the expense of replacing broken furniture, &c.; whence we are, perhaps, not unjustified in inferring that they do not feel completely confident that the Common Room Officers are capable of duly conducting Common Room affairs; and yet they still leave in the hands of those officers a means of making themselves extremely obnoxious. We would humbly suggest the propriety of some investigation into the matter. Perhaps we may be allowed further to express a hope that "the friendships of the Common Room," referred to by Dr. Dale in his eloquent address on Speech Day, may not have any influence on the after life of many of our fellow-students.

We have been lately much exercised in our minds about the curious rearrangement of the books in the Library. After investigations extending over a very considerable period, we had begun to feel a proper pride in the extensive information we had acquired as to the most likely places in which a given book should be sought. But now Chaos reigns once more. Possibly those curious little white tickets pasted on some of the books are intended to form some part of a key to the puzzle, but we cannot bring ourselves to think that they add to the picturesqueness of the artistic shelves on which the volumes repose.

Speaking of the Library reminds us that, with approaching winter, we must look for a recurrence of those devastating hurricanes which constitute the main feature of its ventilation.

We see that no provision against these wintry blasts has yet been made by the Authorities, so that we shall be compelled still to employ our former mode of defence, and heap up encyclopœdias and atlases against the windows. The fact of sitting with the upper part of our body in a refrigerator, and our feet in the hot-air bath furnished by the water-pipes, whilst trying to conform our person to the peculiarities of the Library chairs, always awakens in us a deep sense of admiration for the quaint ingenuity of the designer of that curiously ubiquitous ventilation.

We believe that here and there a feeling exists that in consequence of Mr. Greene's death the dramatic performance of next year should have been abandoned, and some surprise has been expressed that this course has not been taken. Such a proposal was, we know, carefully considered by the Committee. As individual friends of Mr. Greene, they would gladly have excused themselves from a task fraught now with such sad memories; but, as a Committee, they were bound to consider the question from a Union standpoint. It being almost unanimously felt that, once abandoned, the performances might never again be revived, it became their obvious duty to carry out their task. We think all will agree with this when they reflect how poor a tribute to Mr. Greene's memory it would have been to so act as to cause the extinction of the performances for which he so laboured. Indeed, the idea referred to seems to us, if not false sentiment, at any rate a false deduction from a correct sentiment. May we not rather feel that by working still harder for the dramatics we are best recognising Mr. Greene's services in their behalf; and may not the Committee, in announcing the next play, say

"These to His Memory—since he held them dear."

THE UNION.

June 27th.—Musical Evening. Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—Miss M. E. MCCARDIE read a most able and interesting paper on "Rubenstein." She first gave a sketch of the early years of the musician, describing how he showed marked talent as quite a little child, and upon reaching the age of ten took the world by surprise with his genius. She then related the history of the composition of his most famous pieces, and gave an account of his professional tours through Europe. Everywhere his triumphs were most signal, and he was recognised and appreciated from the

outset by some of the first of living musicians. Then she passed on to analyse his excellence as a composer, and to indicate some of the sources from which he had received his most powerful influences. He largely reflects the influence of the German School and its classical art forms, though at the same time giving expression to the unrestrained wildness and impulsiveness so peculiar to the Slavonic race. She concluded with a picture of the famous man as he now lives in retirement, the patron of all fellow-musicians, and the instructor of the younger generation rising around him. The paper was illustrated by the following programme :—

1. Romance in E Flat .....Miss PEARSON.
2. "Thou'rt like unto a lovely flower" .....Mrs. OWEN.
3. Melody in F .....Miss PEARSON.
4. Duet—"The Angel" .....Mrs. OWEN and Mrs. RIPPER.
5. { "When I see thee draw near".....Mr. H. A. MCCARDIE.
   { Reveries .....Mrs. RIPPER.
6. Violin Sonata in G { *Scherzo* / *Allegro* } ..... Mr. WOOLLEY.
7. "The Asra" .....Mr. W. J. MCCARDIE.
8. Romance .....Miss PEARSON.
9. Duet—"Wanderers' Night Song"—
   Messrs. W. J. and H. A. MCCARDIE.
10. "Spring Song" .....Mrs. OWEN.
11. "Morning Song" .....Mrs. RIPPER.
12. "Good Night" .....Mr. W. J. MCCARDIE.
13. Hungarian Polka .....Miss PEARSON.
14. Duet—"Maidens thro' the meadows roaming"—
   Mrs. OWEN and Mrs. RIPPER.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

Friday, October 10th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair. —The CHAIRMAN opened the first meeting of the present session with a short speech, in which he gave a hearty welcome to the new students, and above all to our new professor, Dr. Fiedler, whose name was received with tumultuous applause—a good augury for future popularity with the body of the students. Mr. Haines then referred to the great loss sustained by the Union in the early death at Conway this year of Mr. Charles Greene; and on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Dr. HEATH, the Union gave formal expression to their deep sorrow, and their sympathy with Mr. Greene's friends in their bereavement, and their acknowledgment of his eminent services in connection with the social life of Mason College.—Prof. HILLHOUSE announced that the Dramatic Committee had selected for representation this year Tom Taylor's play *The Serf.*

Following the usual custom on first nights, the Union Committee had arranged for a series of "Holiday Notes" to be read by Miss Bunce, Miss Fuller, Mr. Walton, Mr. Clapham and Mr. Miners.

Of all, Mr. C. F. CLAPHAM alone seems to us to have caught the true spirit of "Holiday Notes." Perhaps he did not aim at, he certainly did not attain, any very high literary merit: but colloquial, interesting, and roughly humorous, his paper obtained huge favour with every one present. The only blot upon its success consisted of the reading, which was marred by the nervous haste common to first appearances, and this, combined with the frequent, and often wholly exaggerated, bursts of jocularity on the part of the upper portion of the House, made it rather difficult to follow the main facts of Mr. Clapham's experience. So far as we could gather, his holiday was mostly spent in the neighbourhood of Cromer in company with a friend and two bicycles.

The subject treated by Miss BUNCE was not a startling one, commonplace and not exceptionally attractive. But if there were any faults in her excellent little paper, they were due to the shortcomings of the matter, not of the manner. Miss Bunce certainly made the most of her opportunities. We did not think that a visit to such very dull and ordinary holiday resorts as Chepstow and Tenby could have furnished matter of so much entertainment. Miss Bunce's holiday was absolutely void of any event of interest save to the persons immediately concerned. She gained an attentive hearing: that is her highest praise.

Mr. B. P. MINERS, M.A., on the other hand, treated of a subject —a tour through Brittany—whose capabilities it would be difficult to exhaust. He wrote in a good, plain, English style, but his manner is altogether too exclusive, and he signally fails in getting in touch with his audience. He lacks force and decision, and his hearers are seldom roused to interest, much less to enthusiasm. Mr. Miners is a man of polish, fluency, and education, but, without affecting colloquialism, he should aim at a more "popular" mode of expression. The paper, which afforded a really scholarly glimpse of the social and political life of Brittany, was well illustrated with drawings by Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. Miners's fellow "voyageur."

Miss FULLER laboured under a grave physical disadvantage—a weak voice—which rendered her paper quite inaudible to the majority of her audience. The Isle of Wight, we are told, was her summer destination, and a large part of her paper seems to

have been occupied with details of adventures with a guide round the precincts of Carisbrooke Castle. This guide was one of the old race of guides—in fact, if we mistake not, the very individual that Mark Twain himself encountered in his "Innocents Abroad." The experiences of Miss Fuller and party were almost identical, even down to the reference to the "nice fresh skeleton."

Mr. WALTON, B.A., came last in a very long programme—in fact, quite too long—and deserves our deepest sympathy. The title of his paper should not have been "Holiday Notes." "A Leaf from the History and Legend of Hampshire" would have been much more fitting. Mr. Walton was poetic in thought and word—to such an extent, indeed, that his style often had the appearance of being strained and affected. His holiday would seem to have been largely spent in a perusal of Malory's "Morte d'Arthur"; his lecture, at any rate, was almost wholly occupied with a discussion of this great poetic monument. Regarded as a literary effort, his contribution was highly satisfactory: as a holiday experience it was valueless.

Prof. BÉVENOT proposed a neat vote of thanks to the readers; this was seconded by Miss BARROWS, and carried unanimously.

Friday, October 24th. — THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—The Treasurer, Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON, presented the balance-sheet, and in moving its adoption attributed the small deficit in the Union funds to the diminution in the number of members and the increase in the tea tariff, and strongly recommended the revival of the Canvassing Committee. Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, in seconding the adoption of the balance-sheet, suggested that the Secretaries, in order to ascertain the exact number of those attending the Union teas, should distribute tickets, to be collected by the caterer at the door. Mr. C. F. MYERS WARD strongly opposed the revival of the Canvassing Committee; and after some further discussion by Miss SAXELBY and Messrs. HALLWRIGHT and EMERY, the Treasurer's report was unanimously adopted.—The report of the Committee, as read by Miss KEEP, was adopted without discussion.

On the House proceeding to elect its officers for the coming session Mr. BRANSON rose to enquire why the nominations had not been posted up as received, but had been kept back till the last moment at which they could legally be published. In reply, the CHAIRMAN announced that the affair had been left entirely in the hands of Mr. Ledsam, and read a letter from that gentleman, unfortunately absent, urging that he (Mr. Ledsam) had not

transgressed the rules of the Union, and that precedent was of no value in such cases. Mr. MARKS and Dr. JORDAN, on the ground of precedent, corroborated Mr. Branson's statement as to the inconvenience caused by the keeping back of nominations. Both Miss LLOYD and Mr. PARROTT appeared to totally misunderstand the point at issue.—For the office of Chairman Mr. A. W. Haines, B.Sc., was opposed by Mr. O. Jones. The former was subsequently re-elected. Miss M. J. Keep and Mr. L. S. Marks were appointed Secretaries; and Mr. A. A. Brockington was re-elected Treasurer without contest. The Union voted as members of committee the following ladies and gentlemen:—Misses Page, Jenkyn-Brown, K. M. Deane, and Constance Fuller, and Messrs. W. D'Este Emery, Clapham, Parrott, and Howard. Miss Saxelby was appointed Editor of the *Magazine*; Mr. W. A. Brockington Secretary and Treasurer; and Miss Keep, Messrs. Jordan, Branson, Burton Pearson, and Emery members of the Editorial Board. Mr. MYERS WARD moved a vote of thanks to the retiring committee. Mr. EMMANUEL, rising to second, was promptly called to order by the Chairman for regarding Mr. Branson's question as a personal attack on Mr. Ledsam.

Friday, October 31st.—Mr. HAINES in the chair.—Mr. Karl Dammann was elected a member. The evening's programme consisted of Readings and Recitations, which were announced as "arranged by the Dramatic Committee." The object of this delegation was, we understand, to give that Committee an opportunity of discovering what students who had not yet done so wished to take part in the dramatic performances, and what their dramatic capabilities might be. Whatever aid, if any, the Dramatics may have derived from the meeting, we, looking at it as an ordinary Union evening, do not hesitate to pronounce it the brightest and best of its kind the Union has held for some time. The details of the programme were as follow:—

Reading.....Mr. CLAPHAM { "The Jackdaw of Rheims" / "Misadventures at Margate" } *Barham.*
Reading.....Miss NOWERS ..."The Game of Criquette Match."
Recitation...Mr. J. A. BERLYN..."The Convict's Escape."
Recitation...Mr. K. DAMMANN..."Claude Melnotte to Pauline"...*Lytton.*
Reading.....Miss PAGE..."Not in the Programme."
Reading.....Mr. BAYLEY { "Story of the Bad Little Boy Who Did Not Come to Grief." } *Mark Twain.*
Reading.....Miss BARROWS .."The Champion Lost."
Recitation...Mr. NEWTON..."Coriolanus," Act 1, Sc. 1...*Shakespeare.*
Reading.....Miss F. EHRHARDT..."The Drama of the Doctor's Window."
Reading.....Mr. MINERS { "The Yankee's Fight with the Knights" } *Mark Twain.*
Reading.....Miss TILLEY..."The Poetry of City and Country Life"...*Longfellow*

We are at a loss to account for the very small proportion of recitations in the above list, and trust it is not that a habit of sloth is overpowering members. Several of the readings, notably those of Mr. Clapham, Miss Nowers, and Miss Page would have been much more effective as recitations.

Mr. Clapham scarcely did justice to the favourite old "legends" he had selected, for, though it showed obvious appreciation of their humour, his reading was too hurried, and lacked force and finish. It suffered also from want of variety and change of tone. Miss Nowers was clear and distinct, and quite equal to the somewhat light task she had selected. Her sense of humour was obviously great, and the only suggestion we would make is that the piece might have been better for a little more vivacity of manner. Mr. Berlyn has improved, and his recitation only just fell short of being first class. He was least happy in the narrative portions, and here and there a line was given with distinctly wrong emphasis. Mr. Berlyn appears, too, to belong to the class of reciters who deny the claims of rhythm to expression: he is in good company. Mr. Dammann's recitation might have been very different had he known the words. His style is something too ponderous for "Claude Melnotte." Miss Page read very well, and made most of the points, but the selection was an unfortunate one for a lady. She was best in the lighter parts. Mr. Bayley's reading of course brought forth "roars of laughter." Miss Barrows read fairly, but the piece she chose is decidedly feeble. Nor do we think Mr. Newton's selection from "Coriolanus" the most fortunate that might have been made. We congratulate him on having recited it, and hope to hear him again. Miss F. Ehrhardt has distinctly improved, reading clearly and with excellent expression. We should like to hear a recitation from her next time. Mr. Miners's reading was up to the average, but the Yankee twang sustained throughout a long reading becomes painful. Miss Tilley read well, the passage affording, however, little scope: it was judiciously brief.

During the evening there were some curious offences against the orthöepy of the vowels by two or three of the performers. On the whole the readings reached a standard of excellence above that previously attained by the Union. A vote of thanks to the performers, proposed by Mr. W. R. JORDAN, and seconded by Mr. PARROTT, was passed unanimously by the small proportion of those partaking of tea who stayed till the end of the meeting.

POESY CLUB.

A meeting of this Society was held on *October 7th, 1890*, at which about fifty members and friends were present. The President, Professor ARBER, after welcoming back the old members and inviting the new students of the College to join the Society, proceeded to give an account of his visit to Ober Ammergau during the summer vacation, in order to witness a performance of the "Passion Play." He described at length the play, and the circumstances under which he saw it. It was pouring wet, and not only was the greater part of the theatre open to the sky, but the actors also were unprotected from the rain. However, this did not make any perceptible difference to the manner in which they played their parts. The number of people who at one time or another are upon the stage is 700, and 300 of these have to say a longer or a shorter part. The play is divided into scenes, between which a Chorus comes upon the stage and explains the position of events, foreshadowing what is to follow next; thus, in the nineteenth century, carrying out the ideas upon which the Greeks constructed their dramas.

The chief point in the representation that struck Professor Arber's attention was that it pourtrayed the *human* life and character of Jesus Christ. It was a case of the quiet, humble, yet dignified Teacher, who knew he had a message to deliver, and was in the right, against the shouting, turbulent mob, and the short-sighted disciples. In the quiet demeanour of Mayer's acting, the part of Christus was invested with an indescribable charm, while the silent patience with which He bore His persecution, and the confident trust with which He carried out His mission to the bitter end, were dramatic in the highest degree. In this way the Professor thought that no one who witnessed the performance would be at all shocked in their religious sense.

The lecture was embellished with illustrations of several of the chief characters and scenes, and was listened to with the greatest attention and interest. At its close a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Professor Arber, on the motion of Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON, seconded by Miss SAXELBY.

The second meeting of the Club this session took place on *Tuesday, October 28th*, there being a moderate attendance.—After the usual introductory business, Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, M.A., proposed two new rules to be substituted for the present Rules 7 and 8, and Miss LINDSAY seconded the motion.—Dr. ALLEN, supported by Mr. LEDSAM, thought that the Club, just

now very flourishing, should maintain the present system.—Some members who were absent had sent their initials to count as votes; by the decision of the meeting it was resolved that these should be valid for that evening. The amendment for the new rules was lost by eight votes, there being 5 for and 13 against it.

Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, M.A., then read a paper on "The Light of Asia" (Sir Edwin Arnold) in a very lucid and interesting manner. He seemed quite at home with his subject, and the evening was exceedingly enjoyable to all. Buddha (which means "the enlightened one," as Christ means "the anointed one"), as a youth, was inclined to be contemplative and ascetic. To prevent his giving way to this, and thus losing caste, his father had him married early to a most charming princess, and surrounded with all the gorgeous splendour of a luxurious Eastern Court: but to no purpose. His conviction that all that life can offer is vanity and vexation of spirit gradually deepens. He sees one old man begging and another in a fit, and then broods over the approach of withered old age and death. In spite of his father's precautions he effects his escape from the palace, and then, at about the age of thirty, tears himself away from his wife and child and lives a life of rigorous penance in company with five disciples. But even this did not bring him the longed-for peace, so he returned to a more genial life, was deserted by his disciples for his apparent weakness, and set himself to revolving the causes of things. At last he comes to the conclusion that ignorance is the cause of the evils of existence, and after attaining perfect wisdom he went about preaching his new doctrine.

Dr. ALLEN proposed, and Miss KEEP seconded, a hearty vote of thanks.

DEUTSCHER VEREIN.

The German Society, after its summer holiday, is now entering with renewed vigour upon its winter work. Since the Verein last met it has had to mourn the loss of its President, Dr. Karl Dammann, who was the original founder of the Society, and who took a great interest in its growth and development. The Society, however, has elected a new and most energetic President in Dr. Georg Fiedler, who promises to make the Deutscher Verein one of, if not *the* most successful College Society (the Union of course excepted!) All friends are always cordially welcomed; we would only gently remind them that sixpence each is requested for their tea! This term's programme is a very interesting one, opening with an address by the President.

THE CYCLIST CLUB.

The Chronicler of the Cyclist Club during the Mason College "silly season," between the end of the summer term and the beginning of the winter, thanks to the spirit thrown into his work by Jupiter Pluvius, has an easy task. The runs of the club described in the last two numbers of the *Magazine* had been extremely successful, especially the last one to Bewdley. The next one—viz., to Penkridge, on the 21st of June—it was found, was not likely to be a success; the prospect of the healthy breezes on Cannock Chase not being sufficient to compensate for the dreary ride there along the Walsall Road through the Black Country. So by universal request the run was changed to one to Alcester, and a special permission to look through the grounds of Ragley Park was kindly granted by the Marquis of Hertford. The Alcester Road was in a fine condition, and the descent into the Valley of the Arrow was a feast of loveliness. We had a glorious spin so far, but as it then became obvious that the watery god was marshalling his forces, a tremendous rush was made. Alcester was reached by several of the Club before the first volley, while others, less fortunate, had to stay at Studley and struggle on to Alcester before the second volley. After these preliminaries he settled down to work, and routed the walking party, driving them back by an earlier train, having effectually prevented their doing any walking, except in Alcester. Then, as if repenting, he suspended operations, and the cyclists were able to accomplish their intention of riding back along the Ridgeway. The roads were not much the worse except near Birmingham, and the country along the Ridgeway was beautiful, though the view was not so good as it might have been.

The pouring potentate now seemed as if nothing short of the destruction of the Club, root and branch, would satisfy him. The next five runs, including the joint-run with Queen's to Rowington, and the day run to Stratford, had all to be sacrificed to his fury. After this he seems to have devoted himself to his more legitimate summer business—viz., spoiling the weather at the watering places —and took little more notice of the Club.

So in the autumn we were able to recommence operations, a mere remnant though we were, and we had a very pleasant run to Meriden on September 20th. After a lounge up to the top of the hill, during which we were passed by a nearly continuous stream of cyclists, we had a very cosy tea at the "Bull's Head," that most picturesque inn in the most picturesque village in Warwickshire.

Meriden is very little known to the railway excursionist, thanks to its distance from any railway station, and an old world quiet reigns there, broken only by the stealthy approach of the passing cyclist. And to his credit be it said, he very seldom "scorches" through Meriden, but seems to linger as though he fain would stay. It is the delightful glimpses such as these which constitute the greatest charm of cycling, and one can well understand the popularity of Meriden, with its quaint houses, old-fashioned gardens, where summer seems ever to reign, and last, but not least, the transparent pool and sluggish brook. Add a few votaries of Izaak Walton, happy, though waiting for the bite that never seemed to come, and the picture is complete. But from this we had to tear ourselves away and race a shower on the road home, in which, I am happy to say, we came off best. The run was interesting too, as it was the last run Miss Edwards was able to attend before leaving Birmingham. It may not be inappropriate to take this opportunity of acknowledging the services which she has rendered the Club. Miss Edwards joined the Club when it was in its infancy. The Club was soon fortunate in securing her services as Secretary, and during her long tenure of that office she devoted, as was her wont with all College institutions, her whole energy to making it a thorough success. The walking party owes its very existence to her, and will no doubt miss her very much; but the cyclists remember that it was as a cyclist she first joined the Club. She has our best wishes for her welfare in her new occupation.

The run to Studley did not come off. It was decided unanimously at the meet by the one rider who turned up to change it to a run to Barnt Green, through Alvechurch, which he did.

The first run in the present term was to Hampton-in-Arden, and was largely attended, the route being *viâ* Castle Bromwich. The old road between there and Stonebridge looked very pretty with the autumn tints, and there were blackberries for such as preferred more substantial pleasures. A contingent of the walking party went direct to Hampton and rambled about Barston, while a more energetic party had a magnificent walk from Forge Mills, through Coleshill, Maxstoke and Meriden Cross, arriving somewhat late at tea. We had a delightful time at tea, marred only by a little occasional uncertainty as to the edibility of some of the eggs provided by mine host. Then after escorting the walking party to the station with our lamps, we returned home with no more enlivening incident than that of upsetting a child near Birmingham.

No injury was done, and, contrary to the usual custom, the sympathies of the crowd were with the cyclist.

The run on the 11th of October to Sutton Coldfield was *viâ* Wishaw, and was a pleasant relief to the monotony of the Lichfield Road near Birmingham. The walking party confined its performances to Sutton Park, where one need hardly say the beautiful tints of autumn were on the trees. At one of the pools were several people fishing, some with rod and line, but one with a small net and a microscope. He seemed to be having as good sport as the others, and was kind enough to show some of us his catches. These turned out to be creatures whose names were their most prominent feature, being suggestive rather of immense beasts than of invisible animalculæ. We had a very similar tea to the one at Hampton, the main difference being that none of the eggs were eatable, and we had to pay half as much more. But our spirits rose superior to such trifles, and we ate our crusts of bread with appetites which would not have been much better if we had had ambrosia before us.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this session was held on Thursday, October 30th, 1890. Twenty-one members present, and Dr. TILDEN in the chair. There were elected Mrs. Nicol as an honorary member, and Messrs. Chilwell, Emmanuel, Hatfield, R. F. Jones, J. V. Jones, Moore, Pryce, and Thornley as ordinary members.

Mr. J. H. MILLAR then read an interesting paper entitled "A Study of Nitrosyl Chloride," in which he gave an account of researches which he and Mr. J. J. Sudborough had undertaken in respect to the properties of that substance. The chief point was the vapour-density at high temperatures, and the results obtained indicate that Nitrosyl Chloride is much more stable than Nitrogen Peroxide, and does not dissociate appreciably at temperatures between 700° and 800° C. Dr. TILDEN encouraged Messrs. Sudborough and Millar to continue their instructive experiments, and in his usual lucid way made some useful suggestions, with illustrations, about the nature and disposal of the valencies of Nitrogen to account for the greater or less stability of its compounds. Dr. Marshall, Messrs. Millar, Sudborough, and Beck, and Miss Lloyd took part in the discussion, and a vote of thanks to the authors of the paper brought the meeting to a close.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—On the 9th of July a party of twenty members paid a visit to the Royal Small-arms Factory in Mont-

gomery Street, and were shown round the works by the Superintendent, Lieut.-Colonel McClintock, R.A., and Mr. Neville, and spent a couple of hours very pleasantly and profitably in examining the processes and machinery used in making the new magazine rifle.

The Summer Excursion to the Manchester Ship Canal, &c., began on the morning of Monday, the 21st of July, when fourteen members left New Street by the 7.30 a.m. train and proceeded to Manchester. The party was conducted by Mr. Newman, and, after breakfast at the Grosvenor Hotel, business began by going to the Docks, &c, of the Manchester Ship Canal at Salford, thence along the Canal works to Barton and Barton Locks. The next day the party proceeded to Liverpool, crossed over to Eastham on the other side of the water, and examined the works of the Canal from there to Runcorn, and then back to Manchester by train. On the Wednesday visits were paid to the works of Messrs. Hulse and Co., at Salford, and to the works of Messrs. Mather and Platt, and in the afternoon to the workshops of the M. S. & L. Railway Company at Gorton. On Thursday back to Liverpool again, and across to the ship-building yards of Messrs. Laird Brothers at Birkenhead, where special attention was paid to the construction of an armour-clad for the Government, and of a large American liner. In the afternoon a visit to the S. S. City of New York, and then back to Birmingham by the 6.15 train.

French Cercle des Débats.—The inaugural address of this new Cercle was given on Thursday, October 30th, by M. le Baron Pierre de Coubertin to over 100 members. This augurs well for the success of the Society. The Speaker, whose subject was "La France en 1890," was rather too rapid in the delivery of his speech; but, as quickness is characteristic of our friends across the Channel, those who failed to entirely follow M. Coubertin will have opportunity of increasing their fluency of speech in the Cercle which he then opened. A lady and a gentleman rose to propose and second a vote of thanks at the close of the address, and M. Coubertin complimented them on their proficiency in impromptu French speaking. Considerable amusement was caused when the gentleman, no doubt in the excitement of the moment, could not think of the proper word, and said:—

"Le discours, auquel j'ai—j'ai—j'ai—j'ai *listened*."

Biological and Physical Societies.—We regret that no report of the meetings of these Societies has reached us.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Our Magazine contains a wealth of matter. "The Term's Motto" incites to enthusiasm in one's daily work; it concludes with an unprovable hypothesis. "Our Trip to Cambridge" will, no doubt, be of interest to the readers of *Our Magazine*. Shall we be thought impertinent if we draw attention to the statement in that article that, as the young ladies of the North London Collegiate School for Girls (by some ycleped "Bussites") walked along "the Backs" and through the streets, "undergraduates, a few in sober gowns, more in alarming 'blazers,'" gave "just the needed touch" to make the young ladies "feel exactly what a university town is"? Though a girl of seventeen may talk like the "Minerva" of "A Heaven-Born Genius, is he?" boys of eighteen do not talk like the Clement thereof. Browning, being dead, must of course be duly be-sonnetted. The lady who undertakes this task in *Our Magazine* begins by observing—

"Time's tempest-riven shores lie bleak and bare,
Where once the full tide of thy music pressed
With pulsing waves upon its heaving breast,
Marked by the footprints of each changing year."

Now, is it the breast of the *tide*, or the breast of the *shore*? If the latter, how can it heave? and if the former, what on earth are we to understand by the fourth line? Again, why *pulsing* waves? Further on she talks about "the dreary *level* of our life's *unrest*," and a "rhythmic sphere." The sextet contains simply an expansion of the idea "He, being dead, yet liveth." The words ("For recitation") printed under the title "A Sister of Charity" are as a beacon-light. They indicate the usual strained pathos and maudlin sentiment of the poem for recitation. The incident dealt with is of prison life. A prison, a level crossing, and a tramp ward are as the legs of a tripod on which is based the great mass of poems for recitation. "The First Year of the French Revolution" is very vividly written; and there is a very fair examination paper on "Alice in Wonderland," in which we find, with regret, we could not hope to get more than fifty per cent., but perhaps it is meant to be answered with the aid of the book. "Rivals or Friends" is well written, but strained. Writers in *Our Magazine* should beware of endowing the anti-sentimental and unemotional nature of boys, with the sympathetic and impressionable qualities of girls.

The Marlburian has taken to publishing dreams. There is an account of one in the July, and of another in the October number. We anxiously await further revelations. The due homage to Browning is (happily) rendered in prose. Once more a correspondent bewails Marlburian "Bad Manners."

The King Edward's School Chronicle (July and October) is entirely occupied with school news. The obituary notice of Dr. Dammann is, however, of interest to Masonians, equally with Edwardians.

In *The Institute Magazine* we note with pleasure a very striking improvement, both as regards quality and quantity of original matter.

The *Central Literary Magazine* (July and October) is even above its own high standard. "The tomb of Hafiz" is strongly reminiscent of Longfellow, but is marred by many lines of defective rhythm. "Nurse Dickenson" is very well written, and true to nature, if a little unpleasant, and, strangely, contains no absolutely ridiculous statements about nurses, students, hospitals, and doctors.

We have also received *The School Magazine* (Uppingham) and *The Clewer House School Magazine.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

CERCLE DES DÉBATS.—Since the death of the late lamented Prof. Loreille, the French Debating Society had fallen into desuetude. The new Cercle was inaugurated on Thursday, November 6th, by a speech, in French, by M. le Baron P. DE COUBERTIN, on "La France en 1890." The orator had heard of students—lady students might be—being probably present without having had any tea! Then he delivered his address at a great pace. As a result, on canvassing for impressions, opinions were divided into three kinds: there were, first, those who had understood everything, or all but a word or two—and, of course, *they* will see to it that, by their constant attendance at the séances, and by the committee *stringently* holding fast to the Cercle's general *canons of preparation* and procedure, they keep up that high level of attainment in French-spoken speech. Then there were those who quite frankly stated that they hardly could follow at all; of course *they* will come quite eagerly, for they feel that they were just situated like students in a class of shorthand, when the man dictating went on at the rate of 120 words a minute and they not yet beyond 90 or 100 words speed. These would of course attend where the pace to start with will mostly be their 90 or 100 words standard, with an occasional very short burst about the region of the ideal 120, to which we shall have attained before M. de Coubertin or another friend returns to be understood at the same pace by all our regular members. And then a third form of opinion (how few orators have the same said of them!) was: "Dear me! how very short!" It is to be hoped that nobody will let that sentiment reach him, for if he were vain he might be so tempted by the flattering verdict that he might hasten to our Cercle before fair space of time has intervened for all to get up to 120 words speed at listening. However, the speech is now printed, and a copy of it, available for scrutiny at large, together with the scheme of rules, is at the disposal of any member of the College or of the Cercle applying direct to Professor Bévenot, Miss SUCKLING, in terms "tout Français de tournure et d' énoncé," proposed, and Mr. WILSON seconded, the vote of thanks, which, after a few words of acknowledgment on the part of M. de Coubertin, and after his saying, "Non pas adieu, mais au revoir," the meeting broke up. The first object of the Cercle is to secure for our imminent or prospective representatives at the London or other examinations the confidence, fluency, and correctness of speech which naturally increase immensely the concrete return from what otherwise can but be a very torture to both examiner and examinee. This is mentioned to explain the, at first sight, seeming "autoritaire" drift of one or two of the rules. The profit to our Honour Students from the Cercle will stand ever paramount in its spirit and aim; and that is a guarantee to the others who are, indeed, very welcome, and it indicates a high standard—not of attainment in all necessarily—all will not, nor need, speak—but of aspiration and effort, which has already induced many to join too, and may induce many more to pay their five shillings and take a year's feast of *good* French spoken or listened to, in fortnightly, and soon in weekly, sittings. The first meeting (which was mainly formal) was devoted to appointing the various officers of the Cercle, and unanimously were elected—Chairman, Bernard Miners, M.A.;

Vice-Chairman, J. Malins, Esq.; Secretary, Felix MacSwiney, B.A.; Treasurer, Miss Myra L. Bunce. Members of the Committee: The above, and Burton Pearson, Esq., W. A. Finney, Esq., together with the President, Professor Clovis Bévenot. Professor Bévenot intends to be present at every meeting. Dr. TILDEN spoke some very kindly words with a beautiful French intonation, rare, indeed, this side of the Channel; Professor R. SMITH in very lucid words expounded the question—the bridge over the Channel—from the engineering point of view, and he was listened to with great interest as *the* authority, not only in the room, but in the College—that is to say, in Birmingham—on that part of the subject. Mr. BURTON PEARSON spoke, and spoke well, a continuous speech of several minutes in opposition to the bridge, which was severely dealt with in a *very good* speech, full of humour. It fared no better at the hands of Mr. WILSON, nor of Professor BÉVENOT, nor of the Chairman; in fact two ultimately voted for it, one being Professor R. SMITH, who plainly stated that it would cost thirty or forty million pounds, that this meant work and pay for many of the engineering community, and that on that disinterested ground *he* felt bound to vote for the bridge. Two voted in favour of the motion, eleven voted against, fourteen abstained. The subject selected for next debate, on Thursday, the 20th inst., is: "That it is high time to make it compulsory to dispose of dead animals by burning, and not otherwise." We have more than double the number of subscribing members which was considered necessary, but sufficient, to start. We do not aim at numbers, but anyone may join.

Miss Marian Lloyd has been elected in open competition to a Natural Science Scholarship of the value of £40 per annum, tenable for three years, at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. We offer her our hearty congratulations.

Mr. B. F. Jordan has passed the M.B., and B.Ch. Examinations of the Royal University of Ireland. We warmly congratulate him on his success.

The following gentlemen have been elected to the Associateship of Mason College:—John Hackett, Norman William Kidner, Guy Joseph Branson, B.A., Bernard Perry Miners, M.A.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

July, 1890.

INTERMEDIATE ARTS.

Honours Division—Alfred Allen Brockington, 1st Class in English.
Maude Marian Barrows, 2nd Class in English.
Lilian J. Jenkyn Brown, 2nd Class in English and 3rd Class in French.
Thomas Somerset Bateman, 3rd Class in English.
John Worsley Austin, 3rd Class in English.

First Division—Isabella E. Harrison.
Alice M. Turnbull.

Second Division—Constance R. M. Fuller.

INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE.

Honours Division—E. W. Edmunds, 2nd Class in Chemistry.
E. M. Punnett, 3rd Class in Physics.

First Division—Herbert Fernie.
Arthur Lapworth.
Joseph H. Vincent.
Second Division—W. H. Hodgson, B.A.
A. J. Menzies.
Honours Candidate recommended for a Pass—Herbert J. Edwards.

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC (M.B.)

First Division—Wilfrid Allport.
Joseph Ganner.
John Crisp Griffiths.

R. Alan Bennett
E. Bernard Bostock
Jeremiah Thornton
} Passed in two subjects and completed the Examination.

The next meeting of the Chemical Society will be held on Thursday, November 13th, when Mr. G. E. Browne will read a paper on the "Solubility of Oxygen," well illustrated with experiments.

The able and interesting speech delivered by Dr. R. W. Dale on Prize Day has been published, and can be obtained from Messrs. Cornish Brothers, price one penny.

The late Editor wishes to apologise for the following errors in the June number of the *Magazine*, viz.—"trial" for "toil" (page 125); "derivations" for "derivatives," (page 126); and "Miss Nauers" for "Miss A. C. Nowers" (page 140).

The remainder of the report of the Cyclist Club is held over till our next issue.

We are asked to announce that the next Annual Dramatic Performance will take place on Wednesday, January 21st, 1891. The performance will, as usual, be at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, and, it will be noticed, on one night only, instead of two as this year, the Committee thinking that the second night hardly paid for the extra work and risk involved, and that all those connected with the College, even indirectly, who wish to see the play can be accommodated on the one night. The play chosen is *The Serf*, by Tom Taylor, and will be found worthy to follow its predecessors.

Our heartiest thanks are due to Dr. Windle, the ever-popular Professor of Anatomy at Queen's College, for representing the Birmingham Colleges on the deputation which interviewed the Senate of London University to protest against the proposed alteration in the management of that University. The subject is one of vast importance to us, and we are fortunate in having our interests so efficiently represented.

In connection with the system of University Reform, we would draw the attention of our readers to the important speech delivered by Sir William Turner at the Queen's College Conversazione; a full report of which is given in the *Lancet*. Sir William seemed to hold the opinion that, if the proposed

alterations were adopted, we ourselves might fairly claim to be made a University.

We have before us the third annual report of the Engineering Society. With a balance in hand of nearly £2, and £5 of subscriptions as yet in arrears, the Society, as far as funds are concerned, must be regarded as in an exceptionally flourishing state. The Committee, indeed, take special pains to congratulate themselves upon the satisfactory condition of the money-chest, and find the income fully equal to the expenditure. This year, too, as far as we may judge from the report before us, has been a busy one. The average attendance at meetings reaches twenty-one, and on the first night of last session nearly forty members were present. The summer excursion is carried out on strictly economic principles, at an average expenditure of less than £3 per head, and is deservedly popular.

We have the pleasure of stating that Mr. F. D. Chattaway has been awarded the Constance Naden Gold Medal for his poem entitled "Persephone."

The next number of the *Magazine* will be published on Friday, December 19th. Contributions are earnestly requested, and should be sent in as soon as possible.

All communications are to be addressed to the Editor, and must be written *in ink* on one side of the paper only, and be fully signed, though names are not necessarily published.

New subscribers are requested to give in their names to the Secretary (Mr. A. W. Brockington), or to any member of the Editorial Board. The price of each copy is 6d.; the annual subscription, 3s.; post-free, 3s. 3d.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Madam,—May I be permitted, through the medium of your columns, to point out that the Authorities of the College have so far adopted the suggestions of the article on the "Associateship," which appeared in your last number, as to confer two classes of Associateships differing in degree?

The "Parchment" Associateship requires a public function for its presentation, through the medium of the President of the Council and the Principal of the College. The Diploma is a work of Art, bearing several most interesting signatures, and suggesting to the eye the desirability of framing.

The "Pasteboard" Associateship is delivered *vid* the College porter, enclosed in an envelope. The Diploma is a card, neat enough, but, as from its size and general character it is liable to be mislaid, I would suggest to the Authorities the desirability of attaching to the next batch they issue small loops of tape, that the happy recipient may suspend it, where it shall be an incentive to increased diligence.—I am, madam, yours truly,

ASSOCIATE (PASTEBOARD) OF THE COLLEGE.

October 1st, 1890.

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THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

DECEMBER, 1890.

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Mason College Magazine.

(Conducted by the Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

No. 2, Vol. IX. **DECEMBER, 1890.** Price 6d.

PERSEPHONE—A MYTH RESET. *

ARGUMENT.

Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, personifies the regenerative power of the earth, visibly manifested every springtime and disappearing beneath the ground at the approach of winter. As such she is imagined to appear in an English valley where spring returns not less joyously than in those of Sicily or Greece. Persephone leaving the under-world typifies the immortality of the soul, and returning in the renewed life of the earth to the valley, she gives to those who bury their dead in its quiet churchyard a consoling hope of a springtime of immortality.

PERSEPHONE.

Imagination in the world's glad youth
Moulded the thoughts and words of men, and truth
Was vaguely told by myths obscure and strange.
But now that Time is old and gray, a change
The stream of the slow moving years has brought;
In plain cold words is said the selfsame thought
Once sung mysteriously by them of old.
I know not Greece or Sicily, and hold
There is no need to cross the trackless sea
To seek in far-off lands Persephone.
There is a bay which fronts the glowing skies,
Where last at eventide the sunset dies,
Its shore, gray tide-worn pebbles set in sand,
While jutting darkly up on either hand

* By F. D. Chattaway, awarded Constance Naden Gold Medal, October, 1890.

Tall slate cliffs front the sea, their strata bent
By shock that fashioned sea and continent.
A valley runs from this embattled bay
With rocky wooded sides that slope away
Into the folds of the encircling hills;
Below there lies a strip of ground that fills
A gulf long left by the retreating sea,
Which now is pasture land and fertile lea.
A rippling brook whose waters never fail,
By mountain torrents fed, runs down the dale,
Bordered by heath and moss and bending fern,
With eddied hollows worn at every turn.
Around, the wooded hillsides fade away,
With many a rocky bend, to misty gray,
Where rising dim the distant mountains stand,
Linking the clouds with this sweet restful land.

The turf upon these hillsides first is seen
Changing at springtime to a brighter green,
Among their sheltered hollows first are spread,
The daisy buds, before rough March has fled.
Within the woods the frail anemone
Blossoms in white beneath each budding tree.
High up, the sturdy gorse's blooms of gold—
Lower, the violet's timid leaves unfold,
And gleaming through this under sky of blue
In many a flowery constellation new,
The early primrose opens one by one
Its yellow stars at kisses of the sun.
Blithely the winds sing on the mountain sides,
And softly answer back the rising tides,
Which out upon the lonely restless sea
Mark the slow periods of eternity.
Leaving awhile the dreary realms below
When the cold winter passes, and the snow
Is only in the blackthorn blossoms seen,
When the fresh earth in all its fairest green
Has made a flowery pathway for her feet,
And only azure skies her eyes may greet,
To this fair valley by the western sea
In the sweet springtime comes Persephone.

She comes at sunrise, with the first spring morn,
When in the brightening east the day is born;
Slowly behind the darkling ridge of hills
The twilight glows, and the gray mist that fills
The damp low hollows slowly melts away
Ere the first beams announce the breaking day.
The swift light breezes her fleet coursers are
Speeding above the hills; her airy car,
A rosy cloud on morning's breath upborne
From the gray dawning's wind-swept garments torn.
Waking the flowers, unseen by mortal eye,
With the warm sun, the maiden passes by.
The sunny land is glad the summer long,
Earth's many voices tell it in their song.
The brooklet sings in clear sharp treble tones,
As all its sun-gilt ripples kiss the stones
That pave its bed, and as the light winds pass,
Each gentle breathing rustles in the grass;
The woodbine clusters on the hedges hung
Are like sweet incense-bearing censers swung;
Around the margin of each mountain lake
A gleaming rim the water lilies make,
While the tall rushes starting from the sedge
Rise in a fence of spears about the edge.
Soft fleecy clouds across the sky drift slow,
As noonday's languid breezes gently blow,
Their moving shadows follow silently
In purple islands on the azure sea;
Each breaking wave on the dark sand unrolled
Lies like a snowdrift in the sunlight's gold.
The earth and sky, the meadows and the sea,
Rejoice in presence of Persephone.

Within this pleasant vale she lingers, till
The bracken fern, that on the sloping hill
Unfolded first its crosiers to the sky,
Has changed to gold; until the flowers die,
And the green cornfields warm to yellow brown;
Until the reddened leaves have fluttered down,
And on the wood-paths from the pines o'erhead
Soft needles, like a coverlet, are shed.
And then she passes, sad and heavy-eyed,

Into the silent earth, and there must bide
While in the darkness under fallen leaves
The coming spring's green robe she slowly weaves.

The dreary land is sad when she has gone,
The waters sob, the woeful winds make moan;
Down in the valley with a hissing cry
The wailing winter-storms go rushing by;
The sullen clouds dissolve in tears of rain
As if the skies were weeping, and again
The last leaves fall beneath each dripping tree;
While like a voice from out the restless sea,
The storm-piled shingle, as the waves recede,
Moans with a grating cry,—it seems indeed
As if the earth, the sea, the sad pale sky
Mourned for the gladsome summer days gone by.
The floating vapour gray and damp and chill
Lies like a mourning garment on the hill,
High up, among the mountain solitudes,
A thicker mist in cloudy darkness broods,
The nights are long, the dawnings linger late,
The earth is cold and sad and desolate.

Here still the earth's fair child will come, the same
As she does now, as long ago she came,
When men of old saw breaking through the ground
The new life of the spring, and in it found
A manifesting of divinity,
A true appearance of Persephone.

An ancient hope embedded in the tale
Here finds expression too, within this vale
Amid the clustered trees a church now stands,
Crumbling and gray. Long ages since, the hands
That built it, folded meekly on the breast,
Laboured no longer, taking wakeless rest.
Close at its side a little plot of ground
Rises in many a low grass-covered mound,
Each with a mouldering tombstone at its head;
A quiet habitation of the dead,
Far from the noisy living—all the sound
That comes—is of the wild birds singing round,

The lone wind sighing in some shadowing tree,
The solemn murmur of the distant sea.
Here as the changing seasons gently go
Sad mourners come, with footsteps hushed and slow,
To lay their loved ones with the quiet dead,
And standing by the grave with bended head
Weep for the fate no love of theirs could stay,
Take a last look and sadly turn away.
A winter reigns within each lonely heart,
Joy even fled, the old ties torn apart,
The distant future into which they gaze
Shows a succession of gray cheerless days;
Yet still the gentle voices of the spring
Soft, soothing words of consolation bring,
That though their loved ones in the cold earth lie,
Only the mortal forms can fade and die
But freed by death, far through the skies' blue dome
They find—at last at rest—some peaceful home.

Does death end all, and is there nothing more
After these weary waiting days are o'er?
Does the dim future nothing brighter hold
To be in other coming days unrolled?
Is there no land, beyond life's utmost shore
Where death's dark waves come rolling never more?

Look not upon the ocean solitudes,
When o'er the misty bay the darkness broods,
Look not upon the lonely midnight sea,
When no star breaks the night's intensity,
Look rather on the ruddy sunset skies,
When o'er the glowing waters daylight dies,
When breaking through a rifting of the clouds
A golden glory all the bay enshrouds,
Laying a sun-paved pathway to the west,
Where lies the land in which the weary rest,
And hear above the murmur of the sea
Faint echoes of thy voice Persephone,
Echoes more sweet than children's carolling,
As o'er earth's sobbing cries the low notes ring.
"Weep not for those who die, weep more for those
Who, when they see the opened grave enclose

Some dear one, feel that gladness shall no more
Brighten the earth that was so glad before,
And know that far beyond these glowing skies
All tears are wiped for ever from all eyes."

Look not upon the hillsides sere and brown
With the sad gloom of winter settling down,
The trees in roots and branches are not dead
Though on the ground their worn out robes are shed,
The life is there, and only waits the rain
And sun of early spring to wake again.

Down to the earth as autumn passes by
The withered leaves and flowers fall and die,
Mouldering to dust beneath each storm-swept tree,
But hidden in the soil and silently
The wondrous living forces work below,
So that in spring the tender brown buds grow,
And cover with new foliage every bough.
We know not of the fashioning, nor how
The small seeds hidden in the shrouding earth
To summer's leaves and flowers and fruits give birth,
Yet still we feel that every spring will see
Earth's reawaking life rise joyously,
And to each one with this new life is brought
A tranquil peace that calms each restless thought.
We find new comfort every sunny day,
And thinking of our dear ones passed away
Deem them not wholly lost for evermore,
Though to the untried future gone before.
Death passes into life and though we see
The autumn vanish, and Persephone
Go from the valley and the stedfast hills,
She leaves a tranquil hope, which almost stills
The voices of regret, for through our tears
We see a happy promise that appears,
Of a fair spring beyond the reach of time
Knowing no winter, endless and sublime.

Death comes as one from out a lighted place
To midnight darkness, and her tranquil face
And gleaming robes are from the shadows black.

Not unrelenting seems she, going back
To re-unite long-parted ones at last.
In that far future where no shadows cast
Their gloomy horrors, in the perfect light
She has a gentle look and robes of white.
No fair grave goddess now, breaks from the ground
When the sweet May-time of the year comes round.
But still spring comes, and still our glad hearts know
The message that it brought long years ago.
And clear eyes yet may see Persephone
And hear her promise immortality.

—The Valley of Early Harvests.

OUR "MAGAZINE."

We wonder whether our *Magazine* has ever presented itself to the students as a worthy subject for energetic and comprehensive contemplation. We are inclined to think that this has not been the case, and therefore propose to draw attention for a brief space to this important matter. Let us direct our regard upon this production of ours as an important organ of our Social Body, and as such capable of performing a valuable function of our Social Life, and see in what way we can increase its excellence as the one and its efficiency as the other.

In our opinion, the primary function of the *Magazine* should be that of a co-ordinate agency, by means of which the constituent members of the College should be united into one organic body. Since it is, or rather, should be the joint production of every section of the College and representative of every class of student it ought to serve as a powerful bond of union. It ought to bring about the close connection of every part with every other part, and thus be the agent by which our Society, instead of hanging together loosely as a mere congeries of units, shall be converted into a firmly-compacted and well-organised association. It should, in fact, supply the function of a nervous system to our corporate body, by which the whole of its organs and functions may be co-ordinated. When this function is fulfilled it will remove a very grave complaint we have sometimes heard, viz., that there is a great lack of *esprit-de-corps* among us. It is needless to say that scarcely a more serious hindrance than this to the welfare and usefulness of such a Society as ours can be found. But it is quite evident this function can only be fulfilled when the *Magazine* has become

really representative. Contributions ought freely to be sent in from every section of the College, by every class of student, and by new students as well as by old, by beginners in literary effort as well as by the experienced.

This great influx of contributions, which we are urging as so essential, would follow as a natural consequence if students would but be alive to their responsibility as members of a society. Any society is but the sum total of the units of which it is composed, and its general character but the mean of the special characters of its constituent individuals. Each member, therefore, consciously or unconsciously, voluntarily or involuntarily, contributes his quota to the general result.

If each individual were true to the responsibility which is so inevitably his or hers, he would take the keenest interest in the corporate life of the College, and would try to perform his part in that life in a large-minded and public-spirited fashion. He would take into consideration the various elements of our community, such as the Society of our Common Rooms, *i.e.*, the Women's Common Room, or the Men's as the case may be; the Union; our various scientific and literary societies; our clubs; every element, in fact, which constitutes a portion of our social life. He should, by discussion and criticism, uphold in these what he sees to be good and check what he feels to be amiss. By his personal efforts he should try to develop that which is embryonic, and by controversy to elicit the essential features of that which is obscure. And, in addition to this general interest in the Corporation as a whole, he should take up a special hobby of his own and try to further that. If each society were the special hobby of a few students only what great strides might it not make, and what enormous development might it not show itself capable of?

Thus, too, might the *Magazine* become an organ of reform. That there is an urgent need of reform, and in many directions, is strongly felt by a considerable number of us. We understand the tone of the Men's Common Room is not all it should be, and also from our own experience we can affirm that the proceedings of the Union, especially the debates, might be of a less trivial—nay, may we not even say *puerile*—nature than they frequently are without detracting from their popularity and recreative use. But these we only mention as instances. Many others, doubtless, will occur to our readers, and it is our object here only to direct attention to the fact that the *Magazine* should, by all those who feel there is any need of reform, be made an organ for its

expression. In this way also there will be obtained an indirect benefit. It is not all criticism that is good. Mere irresponsible criticism—that which is unaccompanied by effort at mitigation of the evil—is likely to miss the mark of the real need, to be too exacting, and to do more harm than good. It is only when the question comes to be practically grappled with that it reveals its intrinsic nature, and that it is possible for criticism to become just and forcible. If, therefore, it could be impressed upon everyone that it was his duty to remedy the evil he beholds by practical suggestions in the *Magazine* much thoughtless and harmful criticism would be checked. S. K. S.

(To be continued.)

POST-AUGUSTAN LATIN.

(A few hitherto unpublished fragments of a late Latin writer).

Come, ye lovers of the Classics, ye followers of Arts, and with me worship, and do homage! For, lo! in our very midst have sprung up geniuses to whom the Fates have been propitious indeed. Who, ere this, has met youth that could write Latin just as though it were their native tongue, and that "necdum posita puerili praetexta"? Rejoice, therefore, ye Muses, and ye shades of Cicero, Tacitus, and Ovid! Rejoice, too, ye students of this institution, destined to live on immortal and be of world-wide renown! Little did we guess what unprecedented talent lay concealed in the insignificant corporeal frames that made Mason College their "Alma Mater" at the beginning of this term. It was for us who have followed their footsteps in the classical lecture-room to lay bare this hidden light. In the extraordinary magnanimity of his heart, one of the geniuses, who had just sanctified the lecture-room with his presence, had, to our intense edification, left a specimen of his Latin on the desk. Upon perusing it, we saw in a moment, that an intellect of no mean order had been at work.

For the benefit of those who are preparing for the Intermediate and Final B.A., we append a few instances, feeling confident that they will be of eminent service to them:—

(i.) "Mens de homines erunt semper nescius de futurus sors."
("Men's minds will ever be ignorant of their future lot.")

(ii.) "Sumus sine divitiae, erimus canto coram latron et praedon."
("We have not wealth, we shall sing in the presence of thieves and robbers.")

(iii.) "Homines doctus disputo origo de multus urborum."
("Learned men discuss the origin of many cities.")

(iv.) "Memoria de magnus clades erunt semper acerbus supurbus populus."
("The recollection of a great disaster will ever be keenly felt by a great nation.")

We have added a translation lest modern Classical students should be at a loss to appreciate the beauty and grandeur of these stirring lines of *Post-Augustan Latin.*

THE ERL KING'S DAUGHTER (Herder).

Sir Olaf rides so far, so late,
Upon his wedding guests to wait.

The fairies dance on the smooth green land,
The Erl King's daughter waves her hand.

"Welcome! Sir Olaf! What hurries thee?
Wilt thou not stay and dance with me?"

"I dare not dance, I must not stay,
To-morrow is my wedding day."

"Hearken, Sir Olaf, wilt dance with me?
Two golden spurs I'll give to thee."

"A shirt of silk, so white and fine,
My mother bleached in pale moonshine."

"I dare not dance, I must not stay,
To-morrow is my wedding day."

"Hearken, Sir Olaf, wilt dance with me?
A heap of gold I'll give to thee."

"Thy heaps of gold I'd take perchance—
But still I dare not stay and dance."

"Wilt thou not, Olaf, dance with me?
Sorrow and sickness shall follow thee."

She struck a blow upon his heart.
Ah! ne'er had he such grievous smart.

She raised him, fainting, on his steed;
"Ride to thy lovely bride with speed."

And as he neared the castle door,
His mother, trembling, stood before.

"Hearken, my son, tell me aright,
Why are thy cheeks so wan and white?"

"Ah! well may they be wan and white,
I strayed to Fairyland to-night."

"Hearken, my son, so true and dear,
What shall I tell thy young bride here?"

"Tell her, I rove the forest round,
To prove my trusty horse and hound."

Hardly has daylight dawned again,
When came the bride and her bridal train.

She gave them mead and she gave them wine.
"Where is Sir Olaf, oh bridegroom mine?"

"Sir Olaf roves the forest round,
To prove his trusty horse and hound."

The bride lifts up his mantle red,
There lay Sir Olaf and he was dead.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE DR. DAMMANN.

There has for some time been a feeling among the friends and pupils of the late Dr. Dammann that there ought to be some memorial of his work in connection with Mason College.

Dr. Dammann's connection with this College was twofold. He was Professor of German, and also the President—and indeed the founder—of the Deutscher Verein. He was also most generous in lending, both publicly and privately, German books and magazines. A library was begun in his class-room for the use of Mason College students, and many others not studying at the College have to thank him for help in this way. Had he lived, there is, I think, no doubt that he would eventually have gathered together for the use of students a large and useful German Library.

It is proposed to try and carry on this work, and, after considerable deliberation, it has been decided to appeal only to Mason College students and to members of the Deutscher Verein, past and present. This society includes many who, while never, perhaps, pupils of Dr. Dammann, are yet much indebted to him

for the interest he took in all students of German, and many who were his personal friends.

The proposal for a memorial was brought forward at the first meeting of the Deutscher Verein of this session (now under the presidency of Dr. Fiedler), a sub-committee appointed to carry it out, consisting of Dr. Fiedler, Misses Suckling, Caddick, Johnson, Brooks, Saxelby, MacCarthy, Messrs. E. Kannreuther, E. Rainsford, — Clapham, and B. Marks, with Miss N. Marris as hon. secretary, and Miss E. Harrold, hon. treasurer. Circulars have been sent out, and it is hoped that all who have received these and all who have seen the notices now posted in the College will make the matter known as widely as possible to old students.

Those who do not otherwise help, are asked to send, if possible, German books for the library, and it is earnestly requested that all will take an interest in this part of the memorial.

The funds collected will be devoted to two objects: First, a photographic portrait of Dr. Dammann; second, the addition to the German Library just mentioned.

It is hoped that this may be made eventually accessible in a large measure to students of German other than those studying at Mason College. For the present, however, the committee content themselves with assuring subscribers that it will be made accessible to all College students, past and present, and to all members of the Deutscher Verein.

In conclusion, may I say that all are asked to send their subscriptions as soon as possible to the hon. treasurer, Miss E. Harrold, 10, Church Road? It was hoped that all would have been collected by December 12th, and subscriptions were asked for by that date. But as many will not see this statement until later, we shall be very glad to receive them any time between now and the New Year.

N. MARRIS, Hon. Sec.

THE UNION.

November 14th.—MR. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc. in the chair.

Mr. JENKYN-BROWN gave an account of "The British West Indies" in a speech fluent, lively, and vigorous, and one which, judging by the frequent bursts of applause, was heartily enjoyed by his audience. But though it possessed the exceptional merit of keeping the House awake and carrying the full attention of the hearers with it, there were many defects evident to a critical ear, which it is our duty as Reporter to point out. It has been usual hitherto for the address to take the form of a paper, and it is inad-

visable to depart from this precedent unless the speech is exceedingly carefully prepared and the speaker one of great skill. The difficulties of public speaking are notorious, and on this occasion our orator did not fail to strike on some of the rocks which strew this dangerous sea. If he had read a paper he would probably have avoided certain repetitions, and would have been able to follow out more definitely the relations between cause and effect in several branches of his subject. Desultoriness, too, and disconnectedness were marked features of his attempt.

Mr. Jenkyn-Brown, during his residence in the West Indies, appears to have gained much valuable experience of Social and Political life in the various islands; but most of his remarks were confined to a criticism of the administration of justice and of legal matters—a devotion to his profession which appears to have been begotten of the dearth of Society to which he referred in his acknowledgment of the vote of thanks. He dealt in an able manner with the difficult question of the real benefit accruing to master and slaves from emancipation—that which is usually regarded as the most glorious movement of the century. He pointed out the difficulties arising from that movement—the refusal of the Whites to recognise the social equality of the Negroes, and the distrust consequent thereon felt by the Blacks towards the English Government, and the fomentation of this by White Radicals; the breaking up of the large estates, and the resulting neglect of the cultivation of land, followed by general decrease in its value; and the danger, springing from all these and other causes, of some great political upheaval at no very future date.

Mr. Jenkyn-Brown throughout showed that he owes his intimate knowledge of his subject to a critical and unbiassed use of his opportunities for personal observation.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss KEEP, seconded by Mr. BRANSON, and carried unanimously.

An ordinary meeting was held on *Friday, November 28th*; Mr. HAINES in the chair. The subject was a debate "That Fabian Socialism is not only impracticable, but is opposed to the inherent qualities of Human Nature."

Mr. B. F. JORDAN opened with an account of the aims and objects of Socialism as advocated in the publications of the Fabian Society, and then proceeded to put forward his objections to them. A State worked on such principles he compared to a vast workhouse, with people for paupers and inspectors for supervisors. In it that freedom of thought and action which

gives the charm of individuality to our existence would be gone, family life and domestic organisation would be impossible, as would the individual choice of labour by means of which any person can follow that profession for which he has a liking and is best fitted. His arguments in this section of his speech may be characterised as futile, but in dealing with the second part of the subject—that referring to human nature—Mr. Jordan was distinctly more fortunate. Having first argued that an utter absence of selfishness was necessary for the formation and existence of a Socialistic *régime*, he showed the invariable presence of that quality. It is, he said, one of the fundamental properties of the human character and the motive power of society, and to its operation might be traced the evolution of our civilisation. He concluded by arguing that the mutual jealousy, hatred, and tyranny of the lower classes—of which he cited striking examples —would prevent the adoption of Socialism. Mr. Jordan spoke with readiness and eloquence, but he showed a tendency to wander from the main points and take up side issues. His arguments were full of fallacies, and we doubt whether they convinced any of his opponents.

Miss LLOYD opened in the negative. We believe this was the first time she has taken part in a formal debate, though we have heard her speak several times at business meetings, on which occasions her utterance was not marred by the nervousness which characterised this speech. Miss Lloyd said that in a Socialistic State everyone would have equal opportunities and chances of getting wealth. It was not Communism, nor did it aim at the formation of a cut-and-dried Utopia. It is to be brought about by Democratic Constitutional methods, with the following programme: —Nationalisation of land; the acquisition of public works such as railways, gasworks, &c. by local governing bodies; the extension of such measures as the Factory and Eight-hours Acts, and free education. The boasted freedom of Englishmen, she argued, does not exist in actual fact. In support of this she read several long and uninteresting lists of statutes curtailing this freedom, and of trades which are subject to strict supervision. Miss Lloyd succeeded where Mr. Jordan failed. Her speech was well planned and closely argued, but it was spoiled by being read.

Mr. STONE complained of the vagueness of Socialists which rendered it so difficult to argue with them. His speech consisted chiefly of a complaint about the way in which the Post Office is worked—a subject having no very clear connection with the debate.

He concluded by remarking that when he meets the Socialists over the barricades—as he fully expects to do—his heart will be with them although he fights against them.

The Rev. T. R. NICHOLSON, a visitor, now made a speech which it was a treat to hear. His arguments were well chosen, his language forcible and incisive, and he spoke with the air of one who is well acquainted with his subject and convinced of the accuracy of his views. We feel the impossibility of doing justice to his speech in the few lines at our disposal.

Miss LINDSAY opposed the resolution. She spoke of Socialism having for its object the establishment of justice in the economic relations of man and man. The methods by which this end was to be brought about were not definite and settled.

Miss SAXELBY agreed neither with the affirmative nor the negative, but spoke in favour of General Booth's scheme as calculated to supply many of the social needs of the Age.

Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON denounced the suggestion that property should not be inheritable, and drew a vivid picture of the injustice of such a state of things.

Mr. EMERY pointed out that many of our greatest geniuses were men of private means, who in a Socialistic State would have to work for a livelihood.

Mr. F. J. V. HALL made a maiden speech of considerable promise, attacking the methods of land nationalisation proposed by Mr. Nicholson.

Mr. JORDAN having replied, the votes were taken. The result was—for, 33; against, 21; majority for the resolution, 12.

Friday, December 5th.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—We are somewhat surprised that the two papers set down for this evening failed to attract a more considerable audience; one at least proved of no little interest. We refer to Miss N. Marris's account of her holiday at Teneriffe. The events related and scenes described by Miss Marris were entirely from personal experience, and personal experiences always carry with them an indescribable force in engaging the attention of an audience. We feel that we can scarcely do justice to what was a really admirable sketch of the social life of Teneriffe, at times highly amusing, always simple and unaffected. The style of delivery was perhaps a little too colloquial and conversational; indeed, sometimes Miss Marris adopted such a thoroughly conversational tone that she appeared to be conversing with the members of the front row only,

which put the upper portion of the house somewhat at a disadvantage. Miss Marris seemed to be hesitating whether to pose as the reader of a paper or as a lecturer. A lecture, of course, has its advantages when it has been carefully rehearsed. For our own part we prefer the paper, and consider that by far her weakest moments were those in which she departed from the written words before her.

Mr. F. R. HOWARD followed with "Harrison Ainsworth." The paper was mostly biographical, and of course proportionately uninteresting. It is impossible that the bare facts of a man's career, barely set forth in plain, unvarnished prose, should prove interesting. Where so many have failed it is no wonder that Mr. Howard did not succeed. Hard facts are not remembered—they cannot be remembered; why should they be given? In a paper that has any pretensions to popularity it is absolutely essential that the chief aim of the writer should be a just estimate of the man and his work, that bare facts should be introduced incidentally, and only such points in his life as are imperative to a true judgment of his character. Mr. Harrison Ainsworth was for the moment Mr. Howard's hero of fiction, "a genius" who "lights the world with animated pictures," a novelist not even open to criticism. He set him up on a very lofty pedestal, and he must not be surprised if he encounters certain literary carpers and detractors who would object to such a proceeding. We, for our part, are proud to number ourselves among the carpers and detractors. We should no more have presumed to criticise Mr. Harrison Ainsworth from a literary point of view than we would the editor of "The Boys of England" or Mr. Fergus Hume. Mr. Howard praised Mr. Ainsworth's "intensely instructive" pictures of life. We were recommended to read "Old St. Paul's" as his best historical novel, and we did. Our judgment of the work is—that it affords about as true a picture of the life of the Restoration Age as a hermit, or solitary recluse, starting with the bare fact that the times were licentious, could have guessed at. We could scarcely realise that that blurred daub which Mr. Ainsworth would have us receive for Rochester, was one and the same with the witty Rochester of history, who wrote the "Satire against Man." The following course of study, we think, would not prove uninstructive, in order to justly appreciate Mr. Ainsworth's work as an historical novelist. Read "Old St. Paul's," and then the diaries of Sam Pepys and John Evelyn, combining with them Defoe's "Journal of the Plague Year."

Mr. JOSEPH MALINS proposed a hearty vote of thanks; he seemed to be oppressed with a wholesome dread both of Mr. Ainsworth and his books.—Mr. SUDBOROUGH seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

POESY CLUB.

The proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the above club were of a most successful character. The President (Prof. Arber) gave the key note to the spirit of the evening when he announced a balance in hand of over £7, and the sense of satisfaction thus initiated was sustained by the retiring committee's report, which showed a decided increase in the average attendance at the meetings of the past year.

There was one point, however, on which the committee could not congratulate the club: that was the very little discussion that papers and lectures provoked among the audience. The Windsor excursion had been attended by eighty or ninety members and friends, and was both financially and socially a great success. The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. C. E. Martineau, seconded by Mr. Branson; and Mr. L. S. Marks moved a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring committee, coupling with it the names of Miss Charles and Miss Edwards, in whose departure from Birmingham the Club had sustained no slight loss. Miss Ehrhardt seconded the vote of thanks. How is it that seconders of votes of thanks so seldom think i incumbent on them to support the resolution by a word of their own?

The following committee was selected for the coming year:— Misses Bishop, Brooks, Ehrhardt, M. J. Keep, and Lindsay, Dr. Allen, Messrs. W. A. Brockington, T. A. Jenkyn-Brown, C. E. Martineau, and Kineton Parkes.

Miss J. A. Pearson now opened the real business of the evening by a tasteful rendering of Bendel's delicate "Mondscheinfahrt." This pianoforte solo, and Rubinstein's more boisterous "Tarantella," in which the above lady was joined by Miss B. J. Keep, were without doubt among the most enjoyable items in the altogether excellent programme arranged by the Club committee. Miss L. J. Charles contributed two songs, Lawrence Kellie's "Douglas Gordon," and "Voi che sapete," from Mozart's "Figaro." Mr. W. A. Sapey in Webster's "Who Shall be King?" was good, but his accompanist was evidently deceived in the vocal power of the singer. Special interest attached to Mrs. Houghton's song, "Come to Me in My Dreams," from the fact that the words were by the late Matthew Arnold, hon. member of the Poesy Club. Mr. Harry McCardie's singing of Pinsuti's "Queen of the Earth" was eminently artistic, but, though much affected by tenors, we have always considered the song more suited to a baritone voice.

The programme was concluded by a performance of that charming little comedy "Which is Which?" with the following cast:—

Annie ....MISS ROLASON.
Bertha.....MISS BROOKS.
Mrs. Mills .....MISS M. KEEP.
Mr. Capper..... .....MR. W. BROOKS.
Mr. Gargles .....MR. T. A. JENKYN-BROWN.
Mr. Paddles .....MR. F. H. SIMPSON.

We question if Mr. Theyre Smith has ever been favoured with a more appreciative audience than that of Tuesday night. The performance, too, with one exception, was of great merit. As the vivacious "Puffy," Miss Rolason came out exceptionally well, proving herself an amateur actress of no mean capability. Miss M. J. Keep fully accentuated the humour of the housekeeper "Mills," and Miss Brooks was very good as "Bertha." It goes without saying that the embarrassed young artist (Mr. Walter Brooks) was excellent. Mr. Brooks always is excellent. A careful and mirth-provoking character study was Mr. Simpson's "Paddles." Mr. T. A. Jenkyn Brown we refrain from criticising. He had seemingly not taken the trouble even to commit to memory the lines allotted to Mr. Gargles, and did his best to spoil the only scene in which he took a prominent part.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Haines, seconded by Miss Saxelby, closed a meeting which was quite the most enjoyable we have assisted at.

THE CYCLIST CLUB.

October 18th.—The destination of this run was Alvechurch.

A start was made from St. Luke's, Bristol Road, at 2.40 p.m., as we had waited till then for the late members. There were present the president, a great electrician and his friend, and a tandem; also—rather a novelty—a new member, and the writer; in all seven. We had a nice run till within two miles of Alvechurch. Here, as we were descending a hill, the electrician's chain curled up, so we left him for repairs at a neighbouring blacksmith's, where he had to wait half an hour, whilst a horse was being shod. The tandem made the pace, and we got to Alvechurch about 4 p.m. After a slight refreshment at the inn we started in search of the walking party, which was nowhere to be found. Despatching scouts to the church we gave it up, and the tandem basely said it would not stop for tea—a blow severely felt, but atoned for by the arrival of the walking party in the shape of one solitary individual. After witnessing the departure of the above-mentioned members, the remnant of the club turned to the pedestrian and asked him how he had been spending his time. He answered "Fishing." After Dr. Johnson's famous definition of a fisherman had been quoted, we learnt that his walking-stick had been the rod, a piece of string his line, and in his pocket he had a hook. Having first used the rod as a spade he had obtained bait, and then, after an hour's whipping of the water, he had caught a—minnow. We asked to see the spoil, and were informed he had left it on the bank of the stream. Going in search of it only the tail was left, but this it was proposed to mount as a scarf-pin, to present next year to the new member who scored most attendances. But hearing that some of the new members are vegetarians, and so would have conscientious scruples about accepting it, this plan was given up.

We went to inspect the church, and got the keys for the Mason College Cycling Club—words which would have produced more impression had a larger party been visible. After tea the cylcists made tracks for the Bristol Road, but, owing to the shades of night, found themselves again on the Redditch Road. They went across to Northfield, and after repairing a broken lamp-bracket arrived safely at home about eight o'clock.

November 1st.—Destination Knowle; meet at the Mermaid. This was the run fixed for October 25th, but owing to the bad weather was postponed.

The Captain arrived punctually at 2-30, but did not find the Club; in about two minutes the Club arrived, in the person of the new member whose first appearance was recorded in our last. He was inexpressibly shocked at finding so small a muster, but after a six of whisky he recovered enough to be able to start.

It was a lovely afternoon, and the scenery was beautiful; in fact, it was a perfect afternoon for a run, but for the roads, which were a "wee bit" muddy. Shame on those who could have come, and did not!!

After a pleasing ride, devoid of special interest, we arrived at the Greswolde Arms, and put up our machines. Then we went to the church: no walking-party, but a man who was going to photograph it, and he asked us not to disturb him, so we left, and wended our footsteps towards the Hampton road, along which we hoped the wanderers would come. We found a cottage chimney on fire, and a group of rustics placidly regarding it, from whom we heard the following:—"Ah, it's a fine way to clean a chimney." (I can't reproduce the dialect.) "Yes, but they won't let 'em do it in towns." Later we saw another chimney on fire, so I conclude that in Knowle when a chimney gets dirty, they set it alight. After wandering for a time along that pleasant Warwickshire lane we came to a picturesque old farmhouse, and as a neighbouring stile offered an inviting seat, we accepted it, and rested awhile. There was a delicious stillness and fragrance, and such a glorious sunset! Not seeing the expected, we turned back and watched a football match, but it was slow, and we began to growl, as it was nearly tea-time, and we had been there over an hour.

So, with bitter feelings, we began to retrace our steps to the inn, when lo! we met a walking party of *four* members. A wild cheer disturbed the solemn calm of Knowle, and we rushed forward in rapture to greet them. We learnt they had come to Hampton, and walked by Temple Balsall to Knowle; also that two more were behind. We went into the coffee-room and began tea, and a few minutes later the two arrived, having missed the first train from Birmingham. We heard with great regret how the Secretary had, through the churlishness of a guard, been unable to come, and passed a vote of condolence. When all were satisfied—a matter of time—a clamour arose for the important announcement which had been promised. The captain was asked to stand on a chair, but the ceiling was rather low and he objected, although his cranium is very thick. He would not stand at all. Then order was called, and a vote of thanks to him proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously. He then made an eloquent speech, in which he set forth that the club was in a fairly flourishing condition, and that it had been thought it would be good to have, say one social evening this term and two or three next; also, if the weather was propitious, to get scratch runs (and walking parties) occasionally, and Tardebigg was proposed for that day fortnight. Ending a splendid speech, he said: "Let us all, then, come to these runs, even though it may put us to temporary inconvenience; let us remember that if the C.C. is to be a success all must help by their personal attendance. 'Amor collegii omnia vincit' (Sallust)." The applause had naturally to be restrained, as we are an orderly club. One lady offered at once a solo on a tin whistle, jew's-harp, or comb and paper. She also paid a new subscription, and another paid her old subs.

As there was an hour before the next train for the city was due, it was

proposed to walk to Solihull, and the party started, the cyclists lighting the way. The cavernous depths of the wood-lined roads deterred the ladies of the party, for they found "in every bush a form, in every tree a vision." So they went to Knowle Station, and the cyclists both got safely to their destination after a good ride in that soft starlight night.

"VERITAS SUPER OMNIA."

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—A meeting was held on the *12th November*; present twenty-six members—Mr. J. T. NEWMAN in the chair. Messrs. W. C. Pilsbury, J. Hemming, J. W. Ballard, W. H. Fletcher, and C. Madeley were elected members of the Society. Mr. A. W. MANTON was then called upon to read his paper on the "Manchester Ship Canal." He said that he laboured under a great difficulty. Within the last few days a great calamity had befallen Section 6 of the works; the heavy gales had flooded the cuttings with 600,000,000 gallons of water, washed away nine bridges, and submerged four or five miles of the works: and the office in which lay the manuscript of his paper, and some models, drawings, and photographs, intended to illustrate it, then lay under thirty-two feet of water. Under these circumstances, his very interesting description of the Canal, which had for the most part to be given from memory, was highly creditable.

The Canal is of a size to allow the largest vessels to reach Manchester, its total length is thirty-five miles, and it is crossed seventeen or eighteen times by the Mersey. Its total rise in level is 60 feet., and is effected by four sets of locks, of which the first and largest is at Eastham, and consists of three locks side by side, 80 feet, 50 feet, and 30 feet wide respectively, so that the passage of small vessels should not involve as much expenditure of water as the passage of large vessels. The water is not let into the locks by sluices in the gates, but by eight large openings in the side walls, which not only gives a larger area for admission, but lets in the water more uniformly beneath the vessel, and prevents surging.

The excavations are chiefly through the Old Red Sandstone, which becomes very loose on contact with water, and has to be held together by fascines. Mr. Manton explained the method of pile-driving by the help of fine water-jets, and described the hydraulic swing bridges and other important details, touched upon the railway deviations rendered necessary by the canal, and the bridges that had to be built for them; and concluded with a graphic account of the progress of the flood tidal wave, 200 feet wide and 20 feet high, down the cuttings, sweeping away nine bridges, submerging the machinery, washing away the permanent and temporary works, and drowning several workmen.

A large model of one of the locks and many drawings were exhibited. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Manton concluded the meeting.

We regret that we have received reports of no other Scientific Societies.

GERMAN SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the above Society was held on *Friday, November 7th*. Miss M. J. Keep introduced to the Society the new President, Professor Dr. Georg Fiedler, who then gave a short address. Dr. Fiedler next spoke a few sympathetic words about Dr. Karl Dammann, the late President and the

Founder of the Society, and suggested that the best memorial one could give to him would be to continue and further the work in which he took so much interest. Dr. Fiedler also proposed that a more substantial memorial be raised to the memory of Dr. Dammann, and that it should take the form of a portrait to be hung in the German Class Room. This was seconded by Miss Suckling, and carried unanimously.

After the election of the Committee, Secretaries, &c., Dr. Fiedler gave his promised address on "Carmen Sylva." He accompanied this lady from the home of her fathers to the Banks of the Rhine and to the Throne of Roumania; and gave a description of her principal works. At the close of the paper Dr. Fiedler said, "Even if we take nothing more away with us than the remembrance of Carmen Sylva's motto, 'Gar nicht oder ganz,' the time we have given to her will not have been wasted." A cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Fiedler for his very interesting paper was moved by Miss Suckling, seconded by Mr. E. H. Kannreuther, and carried unanimously.

On *Friday, November 21*, the second meeting of the Deutscher Verein this term took place. The evening was devoted to readings, recitations, and music, and the only flaw was that the time was too short for the programme, and some items had to be excised. Miss B. Keep opened the proceedings by a violin solo, which she played with great skill. Everybody wished to hear her again, but time did not allow us this pleasure. Miss Tyndall and Miss L. J. Charles sang several songs in a style that enchanted all, even those who did not understand German. Mr. Kannreuther gave a song by Schumann that was heartily applauded. In the other part of the programme Miss McCarthy read with much spirit "Das Heinzermännlein," telling us how a race of elves who helped in household work were lost to the world owing to the unlawful curiosity of some foolish individual. There next came a gentleman whose first public appearance I have much pleasure in recording. I refer to Mr. Gesundheit, the distinguished foreigner who only for a short time has called this college his *alma mater*. He recited in a vivacious, forcible, and highly dramatic manner Schiller's "Taucher." The only flaw in his rendering was the pace of his delivery, which was a little fast. Unfortunately, too, his accent is not that with which English people are accustomed to hear German pronounced, and in consequence he was not so well understood as would otherwise have been the case. Might it also be suggested that for recitation at a meeting of this kind a piece like the "Taucher" is just a trifle long? Miss Marris read Bürger's "Kaiser und Abt" in a pleasant manner, and the humour of the piece was fully appreciated by the audience. Dr. Fiedler then told a short story, entitled "Der schuss von dem Kauzel," in his usual graphic and interesting style, which those who hear his lectures on literature appreciate more than those who only hear him occasionally. The piece that provoked most merriment, however, was Mr. Marks's recitation, in character, of "Des Hagestolzes Geburtstag." This was the first public appearance of Mr. Marks in the College, and was in every way a success. It is to be hoped that he will often make us happy by further appearances in the same style. This concluded the programme, and after a vote of thanks had been accorded unanimously to the various performers who had made the evening pass so pleasantly, the assembly broke up.

CERCLE DES DÉBATS.

On *November 20th* the new *Cercle* held its second meeting, the subject for discussion being "That it is incumbent on us to substitute Conscription for the present system of enlisting Recruits in England."

After a few opening remarks from the PRESIDENT, Mr. W. A. FINNEY and Mr. W. B. PEARSON spoke in opposition to the motion, as did also Mr. J. MALINS in a well-delivered and vigorous speech.—Mr. R. J. MICHIE was of opinion that the new system, if actually in force, would tend to introduce among our youth habits the reverse of noble, to say nothing of the loss of all home comforts and the advantages attendant thereon.—Mr. J. WILSON was the first to speak in favour of the proposition, and his views were supported by Professor BÉVENOT, who said that after young men had left their books for a time, and had served in the army, their zeal for study was wonderfully increased by the few years devoted to physical exercises. Again, an Eiffel or an Edison might easily devise some means for filling up the little stream of water that separates us from our Continental friends; and what would England do then, if she were pounced upon by land forces with scarcely a moment's notice? We ought to be prepared for any emergency, and therefore the "Président d'Honneur" favoured the motion. Thirteen voted against it, three for it, the neutral eleven being unable to decide which view to support.

The subject for the third meeting, on *November 27th*, was: "That the State ought to assist the Unemployed."

Perhaps the violence of the elements, combined with the serious nature of the question proposed for discussion, accounted for the absence of quantity, though not necessarily of quality, in the number of members present.—Mr. J. MALINS, who was inclined to support General Booth, and Mr. O. JONES, who was opposed to the proposition, did not quite deal with the subject under consideration, perhaps because of the examination that was overhanging them.—Mr. B. PEARSON thought that drunkenness explained the present unenviable state of workmen and their want of work, and finally approved of the scheme of the "Maréchal."—Mr. W. A. FINNEY was of opinion that the labourer has quite as much right to life, and all that life brings, as the king upon his throne.

Professor BÉVENOT remarked that the question was not that the Government ought to find work for the unemployed, but that it ought to come to their aid. In his opinion, the only effective remedy was education among the masses. Teachers of economy should be scattered through the country to instruct the poorer classes in agriculture, to tell them what will grow well on English soil, and to point out the way to live cheaply and well. Nine-tenths of the present expenses of every household might be saved, and that with advantage to health, and, therefore, to the character and happiness of individuals. In France specialists, who took into consideration the peculiar nature of certain districts, gave free courses of lectures, not impracticable either, on agriculture, horticulture, &c. The "Président d'Honneur," therefore, thought that the State ought to assist the unemployed by educating them in the above sense of the word.—Eight voted for and one against the proposition, there being, as usual, several neutral ones.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The University College of Wales Magazine for October gives us some instructive and fairly interesting articles, "Oxford Un-attached," and "Tennyson Land" being the titles of the more important. In the November number, the papers are more original, though some show traces of the encyclopædia. The great strength of this Magazine lies in its College Notes, and we of the *M.C.M.* regard with respectful envy the free criticisms and outspoken grumblings therein set forth in print.

The Marlburian begins with a paper describing various schoolboy types, and passes on through an Old Boy's letter on "Elephant Shooting" to plunge into the usual jungle of "School News."

The most noticeable paper in *The Institute Magazine* for November bears the title "Shakespeare's Sonnets: a literary problem solved." The December number contains interesting articles on "The Colour of Animals" and "Hero Worship."

We have also received *Our Magazine*, *The School Magazine* (Uppingham), and *The Wykehamist*.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Our note last month on the present state of the Common Room has created no small disturbance. We hoped and expected it would. It has hit right home as we intended, and we feel convinced that the disturbance is no unwholesome one. It is of no use denying that the Common Room, at the present moment, is in singularly bad odour. Last month we pointed out the disease; we have now to find the remedy—an easy task.

Why, then, are these things so? The real reason is not far to seek, though no one as yet seems to have hit the right nail on the head. It is because the real "working life" of Mason College has nothing in common with the Common Room. The Common Room has for so long a time now been almost exclusively the resort of the mere fledglings and idlers, that these gentlemen have, for all intents and purposes, come to regard it as their own private property, and the real proprietor, very naturally, feels a little lonely at first. The systematic "working" student, the true representative of the College, has the remedy in his own hand, and quite ready to his hand. It is his own fault, if he does not use it. Let *every* male student of the College spare, say, half-an-hour—he could easily do it—during the day—pay his sixpence to the Common Room, and go there systematically, read the newspapers, pow-wow, and generally enjoy himself in a quiet and gentlemanly manner. The Common Room will then be a "Common" Room, not in name only.

We already note with pleasure the first beginning of this reforming tide, but one or two isolated cases will not suffice. A general and combined action on the part of *the* students of the College is necessary. Moreover, the general body of the students never yet seem to have recognised that in the disgrace inflicted on the Common Room by the refusal on the part of the Senate to grant the "social evening" license, each one of us is individually implicated. But still it is so, and until our best students think fit to drop once and for all their canting Grundyism, and take the law into their own hands in these matters, things will go steadily from bad to worse, and when the Common

Room is no more—such a conjuncture under existing circumstances seems perilously near at hand—they will wish they had done so, for like most things that are reviled in life, its real loss will never be felt, till it is gone.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

B. A. EXAMINATION.

First Division—Lake, Amy Lucy.
Malins, Joseph.
Wallis, John Nelson.
Wheeler, Emmanuel.

Second Division—Jones, Oliver.
Mason, Howard Ernest

B. Sc. EXAMINATION.

Second Division—Ingram, Arthur R. Hall.
Chattaway, Frederick Daniel.
Lane, Francis Oscar.

It is earnestly hoped that during the coming vacation many students will think of the *Magazine*, and employ their spare time in preparing contributions for us. All contributions should reach the Editor as soon after the commencement of the term as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEN'S COMMON ROOM.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine*.

Madam,—In reference to the article appearing in this month's (November's) *Magazine* abusive of the Common Room, I am instructed by the Common Room Committee to inform you that, at a meeting of the Committee held on Friday, November 14th, 1890, at 5 p.m., the following resolution, proposed by myself, seconded by Mr. J. H. Millar, was unanimously carried :—

"That the statements appearing in the Mason Science College *Magazine* for November, attacking the Common Room and its Committee, be treated with the silent contempt it deserves, and that nothing less than a withdrawal of those statements by the writer will satisfy the Committee."

Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this letter in the next issue of the *Magazine*.

I beg to remain, yours faithfully,

DAVID HORWITCH,
Hon. Sec. Common Room Committee.

Mason Science College, November 18th, 1890.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine*.

Madam,—Having been much moved by the late appeal for new subscribers to the *Magazine*, I invested sixpence in the purchase of the November number, and was disagreeably surprised by its contents.

In your Editorial you say that the chief aim and object of the Officers should be to make the *Magazine* popular! Presumably this reform is to be commenced in the December number, as the present contains small matter to render it beloved by the students of the College.

For example, the denunciation, in "College Notes," of the Common Room seems to me somewhat forced and wholly unnecessary. Is it just to designate this institution "a social drain-pipe," because a small clique, calling itself the Committee, has taken upon itself the responsibility of making itself objectionable? Several highly respectable members of the College—including, of course, myself—habitually use the Common Room, and we, one and all, strongly object to being called "social sewage."

But this is not all: the critiques of the proceedings of the Union seem wofully wanting in the kindliness of spirit with which they should surely be infused. I think that persons who are told that "their papers were marred by the nervous haste in which they were read"; that "their papers gained an attentive hearing, that is their highest praise"; "that their styles were strained and affected, and their papers as holiday experiences—valueless"—these persons, I repeat, would think twice before laying themselves open again to such unjust critiques in the faint hope of being "able to do better next time."

To inform persons that they have committed offences against the orthöepy, or, in plain English, pronunciation, of the vowels is also not exactly the way to induce them to come forward with their services on future occasions. Critiques are, of course, absolutely necessary in all societies, but I do think that they might have more of the milk of human kindness infused into them.

Hoping that this lengthy epistle will find a place in the enlarged space which you say is in future to be devoted to "correspondence."—I remain, Madam, yours truly, ANTI-DRAINPIPE.

[Our readers will at once perceive the absolute unfairness of disassociating such passages as the above from their proper context, a process which invariably results in distortion of meaning, often, as in the present case, in actual misrepresentation.—ED. *M.C.M.*

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Dear Madam,—Your "College Notes" contributor, in his sweeping condemnation of the Common Room, has made the lives of at least a few mortals less happy than they were. There *were* students who occasionally utilised the "drain-pipe" for that exchange of conversation which is forbidden in the Library. They were then so deluded as to think that such practice was but an innocent privilege, thoughtfully granted them by the governing body. Let them put away all such notions of that odious place. Let them beware, if they value themselves as more than sewer-garbage, of entering its precincts again. Let them henceforth prefer a draughty corridor and the preservation of respectability to a snug room and lost reputation.—Faithfully yours, ——— OFF-SCOURING.

THE LIBRARY.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Dear Madam,—May I be permitted to add my testimony to the over-effectiveness of the ventilation of the College Library? To me it has always appeared a curious anomaly that in the most frequented portion of the College the creature comforts of the students should be least regarded. The approach of winter is once again bringing the grievance home to us with full force.—Obediently yours, SUFFERING HUMANITY.

THE COLLEGE SOCIETIES.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Madam,—I think it is time something should be done in the matter of arranging differently the programmes of the various College Societies.

My cause for complaint is that the meetings of the societies are not sufficiently uniformly spread over the term. To make my meaning clearer let me give an example.

During the week beginning October 27th there were four meetings—on Monday, that of the Biological; Tuesday, the Poesy; Thursday, the Chemical; Friday, the Union. But in the following week there were no meetings at all. The next week rejoiced again in four meetings, as above, but with a meeting of the Engineering Society instead of the Poesy Club; and the following week once more was without meetings.

It is, therefore, practically impossible for a student to attend all these societies, and there is no reason why the Scientific societies, the Union, and the Poesy Club should not be accessible to all.

I have left entirely out of consideration the German and French societies, and also the Physical, which latter I understand is dead, though they certainly do talk of a resurrection.

A very simple remedy has been suggested, namely, that at the beginning of each term the secretaries of the respective societies, after having determined what number of meetings they require, should meet together and arrange the dates on which to hold them.—I am, madam, yours truly,

December 1st, 1890. ——— J. G. E.

THE COLLEGE COLOURS.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Madam,—I noticed last week some jocular youth or maid—no, I will not believe any Lady Student would do such a thing—had affixed a notice to the board near the Porter's Lodge, setting forth that the College Colours were "Lost, Stolen, or Strayed, and if anyone finding same would return them the finder would be suitably rewarded." Now, without quite agreeing with this person's way of bringing the subject before the students, I nevertheless think it is a matter that wants looking into. When I first joined the College I was perfectly astounded to find that it had neither colours nor badge, and that the unfortunate students had to go about town dressed just like other mortals, which is a very sad state of things. At the beginning of last term, however, things looked decidedly better, as the Union took the matter up, and many of us quite thought we would be able to sail up and down the Arcade arrayed in all the glory of a gorgeous College blazer, long before the term was over. But it was not to be so. First, the Union had to elect a few committees; they in turn brought forward a multiplicity of colours and combinations; and it was not before the last meeting of the Union for Session 1889-1890 that a combination of Colours was decided upon. Then again hope came to us poor sufferers, and we quite imagined ourselves marching about the Promenade of our favourite watering place, advertising the College by its Colours as we went along. But here again our hopes were dashed to the ground, and after passing our holidays in obscurity we came back to College to find that after two months more waiting nothing was likely to be done in the matter. We are still hoping, however, a time will come when some heroic member of the few Colour Committees will, by bringing forward the College Colours, save us from the contempt of every little Grammar School boy, who naturally feels a Mason's Student a very poor animal indeed, since he cannot sport any colours when he turns out to cricket or football. I am, madam, yours respectfully,

ONE OF THE SUFFERERS.

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THE

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BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

FEBRUARY, 1891.

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(Conducted by the Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

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THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.

The sixth annual Dramatic Performance in connection with the Union took place at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms on January 21st. There was, as usual, a large audience, and if the applause was less prolonged and frequent than on former occasions, it was certainly due to the less popular character of the play rather than to any falling off in the merit of the players

In selecting for representation Tom Taylor's drama, *The Serf*, the Dramatic Committee may at least be said to have vindicated the "high seriousness" of its aims: no piece could be further removed from the reproach of frivolity, and few could entail harder work on the performers. It strikes us as somewhat strange that an Editor of *Punch* should have produced a play in which the most excellent quality of humour is almost entirely missing. Our own private opinion is that, when satiated with the comic side of life, or exhausted by the strain of the ninety-nine other plays which are attributed to his prolific pen, its author must have turned to the composition of *The Serf* for the indulgence of the suppressed melancholy, the stifled pessimism of his nature. The motive of the piece certainly lends itself admirably to heavy treatment. There is probably no set of human beings whose lot is richer in the elements of tragedy than that of the serfs of Russia; but far more pitiable than theirs is the fate of the man who, with the inherited instincts of the free-born, and the cultivated taste and genius of the artist, is yet branded with the name of "serf," and, after enjoying the sweets of liberty for a time, finds himself once more a slave. Give to this man an apparently hopeless passion, place him in the power of a tyrant who has peculiar reasons for treating him brutally, and make the noble lady whom he loves the witness of his degradation, and you have a dramatic situation which, for the pathos of exquisite mental suffering, has seldom been surpassed. Such is briefly the "tale of woe" embodied in *The Serf*. The *dénouement*, it

is true, is a satisfactory one, inasmuch as it establishes "Ivan" in the enjoyment of his birthright as "Prince of Sitovka," and re-unites the lovers. But inasmuch as it involves the death of the old serf, Khor, Ivan's reputed father, whose wrongs inspire us with a certain amount of compassion, it cannot be said that the influence of the concluding scene upon the audience is particularly exhilarating.

The intense earnestness which, as we have said, pervaded the whole play, and which deepened into melancholy in the last act, was a formidable difficulty to be overcome before the performance could be a thoroughly enjoyable one. It struck us from the first that the action of the Dramatic Committee in choosing a drama for representation was singularly unfortunate. Hitherto they have, except in the case of *Ion*, wisely confined their efforts to the production of comedies, which are probably far more generally appreciated, and are certainly much easier for the actors, than are dramas. Unless we can enter body and soul into the dangers, the wrongs, and the sufferings of the hero, we can derive very little enjoyment from witnessing such a piece, and the difficulty of finding actors sufficiently good to make us do so is very great. Apart from this difficulty, which applies equally to all dramas, there is another feature in *The Serf* which ought, we think, to have caused it to be carefully avoided. We allude to the great importance attaching to three or four characters, the others being quite subordinate. The strength of the College Dramatic Society lies in the fact that it has a large number of moderately good actors from whom to pick performers suitable for the various small parts. Its weakness lies in that it contains very few really first-rate actors, and those there are may not be suitable for the parts they have to assume. This was notably the case in certain instances in *The Serf*. This play would be, we should imagine, admirably adapted for an actor or actress "starring" with an indifferent company. What it becomes when the principal players are unequal to the tasks allotted to them we leave our readers to imagine. Not one of the chief characters in the play was filled by an actor who could be said to be suited for it. Although Mr. F. R. Howard scored such a brilliant success as Khor, it will, we think, be unanimously admitted that he was far less at home in that character than in any in which we have previously seen him.

We have thought it well to remind our readers of the difficulties with which they had to contend before proceeding to the

attempt to do justice to the performance. The character of Ivan is obviously one which would tax the powers of the most skilled and practised actor that ever held the mirror up to nature. "To be weak is miserable;" and during the larger half of the play Ivan is weak in spite of himself. He represents the tragedy of a soul caught in the iron grip of circumstances. Nothing can alter the fact that he is a serf, and deprived of that personal liberty which is the very life-breath of manhood; he stands—in the presence of men intellectually and morally inferior to himself—impotent and almost abject.

To say that Dr. W. R. Jordan, to whom this part was entrusted, successfully overcame all its difficulties would be to write him up a greater than Henry Irving or Edwin Booth, but he had evidently done his utmost to achieve that end by means of painstaking and persevering study, and assiduous rehearsing. His defects sprang from the inability to lose the consciousness of his own identity. If we mistake not, he scarcely once ceased to be Dr. Jordan either to himself or to his audience; hence, there was a stiffness, a lack of *abandon*, of inevitableness about his acting which prevented one from ever forgetting that his sorrows were but feigned after all. How largely this was due to the intensely subjective nature of the part was shown by the greater naturalness which Dr. Jordan displayed when goaded into active desperation; as for instance, in Act II, when he defies the "Bourmeister, Steinhardt," refusing to set his body to do brutes' work; or in the last, when he finds himself with the woman he loves confronted by a hideous death, from which there seems to be no way of escape. On the whole we think the character of Ivan suited Dr. Jordan less well than those in which we have seen him in previous years. Miss Lloyd Owen, on the other hand, never appeared to greater advantage on the Mason College stage than in the character of Madam de Mauléon. Her natural fitness for the part of the fair young widow of noble birth, and nobler mien, was enhanced by the careful study which she had evidently devoted to it; and when there was no question of deep feeling her graceful appearance and ease and dignity of manner left nothing to be desired. In the scene, however, in which she is the spectator of her lover's sufferings and humliation, her perfect control of face and voice was a little to suggestive of the well-regulated automaton which is the conventional ideal of womanhood. A little more action and a *soupçon* of passion would certainly have improved Miss Lloyd Owen's acting.

Mr. A. Berlyn struck us as remarkably good (or would it not be more correct to say "remarkably bad?") as the evil genius of the piece, Count Ledor Karateff. He threw himself into the character with commendable energy, and gave a very life-like representation of the insolent *roué*, who knows neither reverence nor pity, and takes brutal advantage of the weakness of all who fall into his power.

Mr. W. G. Owen made a very promising début in the somewhat uninteresting character of Prince Vladimir Khovalensk. The nature of the part precluded any brilliant acting, but the manner in which he filled it bore signs of careful study.

This was also the first appearance of Miss M. Brooks, who as the serf maiden, Acoulina, looked very picturesque, but failed completely to enter into the spirit of her part. She showed an entire lack of *abandon*, and this was particularly noticed during the death of Khor, which she regarded without the least trace of emotion.

Miss F. Ehrhardt, in the character of the Princess Bariatinski, was scarcely more than a momentary apparition, the effect of which was pleasing, but did not admit of detailed criticism.

To Mr. W. Brooks, as Mistigris, a special award of merit is due for heightening the humour of the one humorous character in the play, so that the scenes in which he took part stood out in pleasing relief from the prevailing sombreness. He showed himself an adept in the art of introducing really clever and effective "gag," and did the careless, easy-going, kind-hearted artist to the life.

Mr. F. R. Howard's delineation of the complex character of Khor is deserving of high praise. He entered most completely into the secretive nature of the old serf, in whom wrong and oppression had developed such a fierce, vindictive spirit that he stops at no crime or cruelty when it is a question of avenging his own order and destroying that of the Prince who "stole her that was the light of Khor's eyes—the pulse of Khor's heart." Mr. Howard's quiet, intense manner was very effective, and his "get-up" particularly good.

Mr. W. A. Brockington, as Steinhardt, was a sufficiently terrible Bourmeister. His make-up and stage action were excellent, and the sardonic smile which he wore when receiving the bribes was most appropriate.

Messrs. R. S. Keep, Newton, and C. W. K. Wallis as Jatchka, Osip, and Pavli respectively, acquitted themselves with credit in the small parts allotted to them; while Mesdames Lloyd Owen, Marris, Fuller, and Keep, and Messrs. Tuckwell, Marks, and L. G. Hallwright made a most effective and picturesque group of serfs, standing out in bold relief against the white outlines of the village of Sitovka. The costumes of the ladies were very bright and pretty, while those of the gentlemen were strictly in character.

So much for the performers. We have now to speak of those whose work, though it appeals less directly to the audience, is not less indispensable to the success of the play than that of the actors themselves. First and foremost is, of course, the stage-manager, Mr. T. E. Parrott, to whom our very hearty thanks and congratulations are due. We are informed—and judging by the results we can well believe—that Mr. Parrott worked early and late, and spared neither time nor trouble in his efforts to make the performance a success. The scenery was painted by a professional painter under his direction, and while all three scenes were good, the representation of the village of Sitovka, with its quaint pine huts, and *entourage* of snow, was especially admired. Mr. Parrott also had the task of collecting the various stage properties, for many of which, including the plants at the sides of the proscenium, the committee are indebted to Mrs. Lloyd Owen, who also gave valuable assistance at the rehearsals.

The important work of scene-shifting was performed by Messrs. W. A. Marris, O. W. Thomas, and K. Dammann; Mr. Tuckwell acted as call-boy; and Miss Keep, in addition to her very heavy duties as secretary, efficiently discharged those of prompter, and appeared as a serf in Act II.

As a whole, we think, the performance of *The Serf* may be regarded as fully sustaining the by no means inconsiderable reputation which the Union has achieved for itself by its dramatic efforts in the past. To this happy result—which, considering the unusual difficulties of the play, calls for special congratulation—Professor Hillhouse contributed not a little by his indefatigable superintendence of the rehearsal, in the capacity of dramatic "coach."

An important factor in the evening's enjoyment was the admirable amateur band under the direction of Mr. Alfred Woolley. Our report would indeed be incomplete if it made no mention of the delightful selections of music which enlivened the *entr'actes*.

SOME OF THE TROUBLES OF BUYING AND SELLING.

Certain modern philosophers have given expression to the belief that civilised man is destined to become, in course of time, a hairless, toothless, and toeless animal. This dismal prognostication seems to have its basis in the observation that organs, whether of animal or vegetable, which are not made use of, are in the long run usually suppressed altogether by revengeful Nature. If there be any truth in this proposition it would appear not unlikely that something may happen, in the way of either suppression or multiplication, to our fingers as well, as to our ten toes, since we no longer keep count of them. It is said that many savages still count only by reference to the fingers, and so get symbols for numbers as high as ten; and among ourselves it is not an uncommon sight to see ladies performing feats in addition by counting off upon their fingers. So long as these practices are duly observed by at least a few, we may probably rest secure in the belief that no violation of the uniform system of fives is likely to remain long unnoticed.

Primitive man, acting upon the assumption that the dimensions of his full-grown body were as invariable as the number of its members, proceeded further to evolve a system of measurement by referring to the hand, the foot, the stride, and so on, as units. This was, perhaps, sufficient in the free-and-easy affairs of those early less commercial times; but that systems of this kind should command almost universal acceptance in the nineteenth century of the Christian era is surprising. However, it is not the unit of itself which need excite amazement, for, although the foot is used as the *name* of a unit of length, this is really only the third part of the length of a certain brass bar which is kept at the Office of the Standards.

Having, however, adopted the systems initiated in primeval times, the surprising thing is that the moderns are content to go on saying that *three* barleycorns make one inch, *twelve* inches one foot, *three* feet one yard, *five and a half* yards a pole, and so on, when the simple natural course would have been to make the divisors all the same; and probably if man had not become "civilised" the savage would have used all his fingers to represent the successive stages of the process, beginning with ten barleycorns, or cowrie shells, or cocoanuts. Then we should have had a decimal system of measures and of weights, as nature and common-sense seem to have suggested. In the meantime, through the centuries

that have gone by since men began to buy and to sell articles of food or drink, clothing or merchandise of any kind that admits of being weighed or measured, confusion seems to have been sedulously cultivated.

The credit of having proposed and carried out the most important step ever taken to find a remedy for this state of things belongs to France. Before 1789 the French Academy had long "discussed the project of establishing a uniform system of weights and measures, in order to remedy the inconveniences arising out of the scandalous diversity of measures, which varied not only in every province but even in every parish in the kingdom. The suggestion took shape when Talleyrand proposed this reform to the National Assembly, and that body, by a decree dated 8th May, 1790, commissioned the Academy of Sciences to establish a system founded upon a fixed basis, and which could be adopted by all nations. In its generous confidence the Assembly pledged the Academy to come to an understanding with the Royal Society of London in order to appoint an international commission."* This, however, was not a time when England was in the mood to do anything with France but fight, and so the international commission was not constituted, and France undertook the necessary operations by herself.

The story of this Commission of Weights and Measures is one of the most remarkable in the history of science. The National Assembly voted 300,000 livres for the expenses, and Lavoisier was elected treasurer and secretary. Operations began in 1792. But France was then in the throes of the great revolution. In August, 1793, the academies and societies, scientific and literary, were all suppressed by the Convention and their property sequestrated. On the 28th November in the same year Lavoisier was arrested, and on the 8th May, 1794, he and twenty-seven others condemned as "fermiers généraux," finished their lives upon the scaffold. But the Commission went on its way though most of the commissioners lost their heads, and ultimately the metric system was established in France by a law passed in 1795. In other countries of Europe and America the system has been adopted in a few, and permitted in others. In England the use of the metric system is, under certain conditions, permitted, and to a limited extent it is taught in schools. As no reader of the *Magazine* is likely to be so ignorant as not to know the principles

* Lavoisier. par Ed. Grimaux, 1888.

of this metric system, it is unnecessary to enter into an explanation of its details. It is sufficient to remind them that first, it is a *decimal system*, and therefore conforms to our system of arithmetical notation; and secondly, it is based upon a certain standard, which was intended to be exactly one forty-millionth of a meridian of the earth. The observations by the French Commission, made by measurement between Dunquerque and Barcelona, were vitiated by a slight error, and so the metre is not exactly what it orginally professed to be. That, however, is a matter of small importance compared with the pressing need for a standard to which all the nations of the earth can refer, and to which the influence of international jealousies would probably not prevent them from referring. As to the inconvenience of the present state of things we might appeal to the experience of any housekeeper. Those who have more solicitude for their own health and sanity than regard for the exactitude of their accounts leave the reckonings to the butcher and the baker, who have systems of their own, advantageous to both parties, as they spare the customer the disintegration of much brain tissue, while they dexterously turn the odd halfpence into pence for the benefit of themselves. On the other hand, the conscientious wife worries herself into an early grave by trying to settle such problems as how much 7lb. 6oz. of beef comes to at 10½d. a pound.

At the present time agitation is about to be renewed on behalf of a reform in our coinage, weights, and measures.

The "Decimal Association," the executive committee of which includes, among many well-known names, the name of an eminent Birmingham manufacturer, Mr. Ralph Heaton, is trying to disseminate knowledge of the principles of the decimal system. It is to be regretted that the association has not decided upon the adoption of any particular unit for a decimal currency. It recommends the metric system of weights and measures; and as regards the more complex question of coinage, it is thought best to advocate the adoption of a decimal system in general terms, and to leave Her Majesty's Government to select and decide upon the particular system to be eventually introduced. This is a great advance, if established, but still far from being completely satisfactory.

Already we have a coinage more or less decimalised in many European and American countries, but the units are still different. We cannot be happy till dollars and shillings and francs and marks have given place to something else, the name of which had

best be constructed in the language of "Volapük," so that the difficulties may be avoided which, in connection with subjects of this kind, arise chiefly out of national rivalries. Without a uniformity of unit the business of the money-changers will continue to flourish, and the merchant and banker all over the world must continue to waste much of the time of their employés in calculations for which no one is any the richer or the better. And the time of everyone would be saved; for what more profitless occupation could there be than committing to memory the complex and totally uninteresting tables of money, weights, and measures of the United Kingdom, and applying the rules of compound addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and practice. If these things could be left out of the Code of the Education Department for elementary schools it has been calculated that something like *two years* teaching in arithmetic would be saved, and the time thus become available for something less wearisome and more instructive.

Russia is still, literally as well as metaphorically, behind the rest of the world, by reason, not alone of the barbarities that are practised in her prisons and upon the liberties and persons of her subjects, but in the persistent retention of a calendar that even England abandoned a hundred and forty years ago. But even in Russia a rouble is divided into 100 kopecks, and so England stands alone as the possessor of a coinage which is not based upon a decimal principle. If the explanation of this is not simple dislike of any change and mere "contrariness," what is it?

OUR MAGAZINE.

In our last article upon this subject we arrived at the conclusion that the *Magazine* shall serve as a co-ordinate agency in our social life, as an instrument for promoting the development of our societies, and as an organ of reform. It now remains to point out the other functions which it should fulfil.

Obviously, one of the most important of these is the opportunity it affords for literary experience and training. Most of us, at some time or other, will be called upon to express our opinions in writing, and in no art are practice and experience more essential to success. Let us, therefore, seize

the opportunity our *Magazine* affords, and in so doing benefit both it and ourselves.

And, in passing, perhaps it will not be out of place to suggest one or two points which, in our opinion, are of fundamental importance in the formation of a literary style. The first of these is a habit of absolute sincerity in respect to the whole spirit of the production. In no human pursuit is there so much intrinsic temptation to fall from the practice of this virtue. In the first place, one is often tempted, through laziness, to plagiarise: a little artful plagiarism is a much easier way of filling up the vacant spaces of one's subject than is that of providing material through careful thinking and the mental assimilation of ideas. Then, again, how difficult it is not to write for effect at the expense of perfect truth. This, too, is often a result of mental laziness. If we took the pains to *see* our ideas, to be quite sure what it was that we wished to say, and laboured to find the exact words which would express this, we should usually be delivered from such a temptation. This fault less frequently arises from a deliberate intention to win applause upon false grounds than it does from yielding to the temptation to put down at once the most striking view which presents itself, without taking the trouble of subjecting it to careful scrutiny. And in many other forms, far too numerous to mention here, does this temptation to insincerity constantly recur. It is only necessary to sit down to write even the simplest thing to become aware of the hydra-headed nature of this evil.

Closely connected with this vital element of literary style is another, second to it only in importance—namely, clearness. This, indeed, may be regarded almost as a necessary outcome of sincerity. For to be sincere we must, as we have said, dwell on our ideas till we have acquired a vivid perception of them; but as soon as this is accomplished our expression with ease becomes clear, and the various parts of our subject fall naturally into an arrangement simple and harmonious.

These, then, we must hold to be the fundamental principles of a good style. The moral austerity necessary in the observation of these acts, as a tonic to the mental system, imparts vigour and freshness to what is written, and ensures many of the essentials of good taste. The embroidery, the ornament, can then be added according to the ability of the author,

and will fall into its right place as a true decoration. All special talents—as sublimity, brilliance, grace, &c.—will be like the carving on an edifice of pure marble instead of gilding on a rotten shanty.

Again, we ought to use the *Magazine* for purposes of liberal culture and for a channel of communication with the external world. Questions of general interest should be freely discussed in numerous articles, controversies be engaged in, and an intelligent interest stimulated in the great questions which occupy the national mind. We ought all of us to aim to be not only students but also philosophers, and, as such, to embrace in our sympathies and our intellectual life the main forces and interests of our century. Let us by all means live intensely our specialised lives, since it is thus we become mentally trained and efficient as individuals; but let us also live with generous breadth the common life of the nation and of humanity. Our sense of a share in the national life will add dignity to our studies by making their aim to be not only the specific one that most of us must necessarily have in view, but also that nobler one of helping forward the civilisation of the race. Public enthusiasm and generosity will thus be fostered, and a rich, full, social life be added to our individual life. As adult students, we ought to carry on, *pari passu* without technical training, our training as citizens of the world.

Finally, permit us to urge most strongly that during the remainder of the session students will come forward in great numbers with contributions, and will manifest courage and enterprise in their efforts. Especially would we call the attention of *new* students to the appeal we are making, and try to win their co-operation. It has often been felt by new students a difficult thing to find their way into the College life. They feel themselves to be outsiders; but it is our hope that the *Magazine* may prove an antidote to this evil. We conclude this article in the confident expectation that henceforth support will be so abundant and so earnest as to remove from us, once and for all, the fear of that disaster which ever haunts the background of our imagination—namely, its dissolution through lack of interest and exertion on the part of the students. S. K. S.

GRINGOIRE.

(THE POOR FRENCH POET OF THE PEOPLE.)

I am poor and worn and weary,
  Wandering sore oppressed,
Finding food on trees and hedges,
  Sleeping on the earth's cold breast.
O how weary, worn, and footsore
  While all other things have rest!

Babbling of the streams and woodlands,
  Loving everything,
Poverty and sadness vanish,
  All is brightness while I sing.
What a world of joy and gladness
  Flowers and trees and meadows bring!

Shall I tell of these all heedless,
  Leaving wrongs untold?
Let me sing of thee, my country,
  Sing, and all thy griefs unfold.
Will my trembling voice awaken
  Truth, where tyranny's extolled?

Yet perchance, there's One will listen,
  When I sing that song,
One will hear, and, hearing, pity,
  Pity the down-trodden throng;
He who gives me woods and meadows,
  He it is will right the wrong.

ALFRED ALLEN BROCKINGTON.

THE BACK ROW.

In the words of the poet (I am sorry I cannot name him), "Where, and oh where, is that Back Row gone"? Not so very long ago that Row used to form the principal feature, or rather row (pronounced which way you please) of the M.C.U. evenings. Now that is changed—rowdyism has all but disappeared, and its place been taken by a sort of restrained cheerfulness. Let us welcome the change, and thank the unknown Demiurge that has worked this wonder. It is certainly much easier to read a paper or give a recitation when there is a little applause, but

sometimes the nervous reader or reciter would only be confused by the uproarious applause—sometimes appropriate, oftener not—of hands and feet, to which we were treated by the once riotous Back Row.

This leads me to another point, and, being for once in a poetic frame of mind, I give here another quotation which seems appropriate. The author of this quotation *is* known to me, and perhaps may be to some others. "Oh wad some power the giftie gie us to see oursels as others see us." I wonder if any member of the Back Row, or, for that matter, of any Row, is aware how plainly he or she may be seen from behind the Counter! Ah! what have I not seen! The little games carried on below the forms—the correspondence on bits of paper—the artistic sketches and fancy studies—and, more than all, what tender glances have I intercepted! But I must not tell secrets out of school, and all those members who have not yet had the pleasure of surveying the audience, and being surveyed by the audience, may some day come to be a "Counterite," and then *nous verrons*.

ONE WHO HAS SAT BEHIND THE COUNTER.

CONSTANCE NADEN: A MEMOIR.

No less than four able hands have been engaged upon the production of this little *con amore* work. The main portion of the book—the memoir itself—is from the pen of Mr. William Hughes, F.L.S., excellently done, in a simple and telling style. This small half-crown volume is, of course, quite invaluable to personal friends of the late Miss Naden, and, if only as a history of our College, of no small interest to present students, who have had no personal acquaintance with our "Hypatia," for every page bristles with familiar names and incidents. Professor Lapworth contributes an introduction of some length on Miss Naden, and her life and aims as a student. This is supplemented by Professor Tilden, who gives a history of her connection with the *Magazine*. Part IV. is by Dr. Lewins, the founder of the Constance Naden Gold Medal, and deals with the inner life, thought, and philosophy of our great fellow-student. A letter from Mr. Herbert Spencer to Dr. Lewins, appended to the volume, contains the now well-known testimony of the Sociologist —"I can think of no woman, save 'George Eliot,' in whom there has been this union of high philosophical capacity with extensive acquisition."

THE UNION.

Friday, December 19th.—Mr. A. W. Haines, B.Sc., in the chair.—An overflow audience braved the elements on the last meeting of the term to welcome Dr. Heath on what we believe was his first appearance as a lecturer before the Union. The subject for the evening was "Brahms." A most excellent and comprehensive programme had been arranged illustrative of the composer's work, many items of which were accompanied by a critique and analysis, which gave them an added interest and charm. Dr. Heath, in introducing his subject, referred to the lack of dramatic interest and thrilling episode in the life of Brahms, and wisely refrained from wearying his audience with much biographical detail. If his movements had been followed by a faithful Boswell, or if he had recorded his actions in a diary, these works would have interest only from a psychological point of view. His music is not easy or popular, he has little sympathy with English thought and feeling; in fact, has never set foot on English soil. Brahms is in music what Browning was in poetry—both inscrutable and sublime, both growing in popularity day by day. His models were Bach and Beethoven; and he has essayed every species of musical composition except the opera.

In the first period of his musical work we may count the "ballades." Brahms' "ballades" had their origin in the Scotch ballad; in them he attempted to bridge over the gulf between vocal and instrumental music. The "Ballade" (Op. 10), played by Mr. J. D. Davis, had certainly some of that obscurity which Dr. Heath tells us, characterised his early compositions; it roused in us a feeling rather of wonder and surprise, than of genuine pleasure.

Dr. Heath first struck up an acquaintance with the work of Brahms during the musical revival at Cambridge caused by the arrival of Mr. Richard Gompertz, who, by the bye, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, is just now creating quite a furore in London musical circles. He had ever after fostered a profound admiration for one whom he had no hesitation in proclaiming the greatest composer of our time. The favourite class of composition among the young enthusiasts at Cambridge was the chamber music, which undoubtedly embraces the largest, as it does the best and most popular portion of Brahms' work. Of this class was the violin sonata in G (Op. 78), so exquisitely rendered by Miss Florence Donaldson, who later in the evening contributed the Andante in

D minor (Op. 104). The trio for pianoforte, violin, and 'cello, in which the lady was joined by Miss Margaret and Mr. P. J. Walker, was a triumph of technical skill, preserving an air of natural simplicity, though shackled by a seven-crotchet rhythm.

But perhaps the most interesting item in the instrumental part of the programme was the pianoforte duet, "Hungarian Dances," which showed Brahms in quite a new light as the composer of some *morceaux*, which might almost be classed with the catching and popular work that obtains so largely in the drawing-rooms of to-day. In this duet Dr. Fiedler made his *début* before the Union. Scholarship and music must certainly have many ties in common; now Dr. Fiedler is added to the list of our musical professors. Might we not suggest, for a musical evening at an early date, an instrumental concert, to be given entirely by members of the Senate? Dr. Fiedler was assisted by Miss Clara Pearson. Miss Pearson gave, too, an extremely tasteful exposition of Op. 79, No. 2, a "Rhapsody for Pianoforte."

The vocalists of the evening were Mrs. Heath, who also, in conjunction with Dr. Heath, contributed a pianoforte duet, "Liebenlieder Waltz," Miss L. J. Charles and Mr. Percy Taunton. Mrs. Heath was most successful in the song, "Heimweh." The duet, "Die Meere" (Op. 20) was somewhat marred by a slight hoarseness on the part of Miss Charles. Indeed, the severe weather had evidently had its effect upon the voices of all the ladies. Miss Charles was unable to sing her solo, "Vergebliches Ständchen;" and Miss Wheeler, who was down for a duet with Mr. Taunton, "Es rauschet das Wasser," was prevented from appearing through indisposition. Mr. Taunton, however, is a man of resource, and was quite equal to the occasion. He sang, as a solo, his part in the duet, to the great delight of his hearers. He was evidently in splendid voice, and did good justice also to the "Sapphische Ode," and "Der Gang Zum Liebchen," the former of which was without doubt a difficult number.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks closed a most enjoyable meeting.

Friday, January 23rd.—Mr. A. W. Haines, B.Sc., in the chair.—Mr. A. A. Brockington read a paper on "Sheridan." In a lively and interesting manner he gave an account of Sheridan's career as a playwright, and a criticism of his plays, at once sympathetic and discriminating. After asserting that the characters represented on the stage must be a reflection of those among the audience, he pointed out that Joseph Surface, Lady

Sneerwell, and Mrs. Candour were actually existent in the world of Sheridan's time; nay, were still alive, though with the dress and manners of another century. The differences between the comedies of Sheridan and those of his predecessors, Wycherley, Congreve, Farquhar, and Vanburgh, were detailed and commented on. Turning for a moment to the incidents of Sheridan's life, Mr. Brockington lamented that they showed him to absolutely lack force of character. At a time when the position of a successful playwright was the most enviable to which a literary man could attain, far exceeding that of the poet or prose writer, Sheridan's first comedy, "The Rivals," appeared, and was immediately successful. In this play pure fun abounds, affording a contrast to the brilliant wit and keen satire of "The School for Scandal." The characterisation of "The Rivals" is weak, each character being marked out by some particular trait, and apart from this being colourless. But perhaps this very fault, as making the characters intelligible on a first representation accounts largely for the unfailing popularity of the play with an audience. In "St. Patrick's Day," "The Duenna" (which, in spite of Byron's laudation, is but an ordinary comic opera of the type then obtaining), and in "The Trip to Scarborough" (Sheridan's adaptation of Vanburgh's "The Relapse)," Mr. Brockington discerned no particular merit. A very interesting account was given of the generation of the plot and characters of "The School for Scandal," Sheridan's most laboured and artistic work. Having spoken of Sheridan's share in "The Stranger" and "Pizarro," and of his last comedy, "The Critic," the reader concluded with some account of Sheridan as a wit. By the assistance of friends Mr. Brockington was enabled to illustrate his paper by two dramatic recitations, the first from "The Rivals," Act II., Scene 1, the characters being taken as follows:—"Bob Acres," Mr. H. R. C. Lyster; "Captain Absolute," Mr. W. A. Brockington; "Faulkland," Mr. A. C. Rose; "Fag," Mr. Ewins; and "Sir Anthony Absolute," Mr. A. A. Brockington; the second, Act IV., Scene 1, from "The School for Scandal," in which Mr. W. A. Brockington represented "Charles Surface," Mr. H. R. C. Lyster "Sir Oliver Surface," Mr. A. C. Rose "Careless," and Mr. A. A. Brockington "Moses." In spite of the absence of costume and other accessories, these scenes were rendered by the above-named gentlemen with such dramatic force, vividness, and humour as to obtain the well merited and most hearty applause af the meeting.

Mr. A. R. H. INGRAM and Mr. BAILEY proposed and seconded a very cordial vate of thanks. Both congratulated Mr. Brockington upon the unconventional character of his paper, the exceptional interest of which had lain in the fact that he had treated his subject as a dramatist and a man of wit, and made the bare outlines of his career subordinate to the true appreciation of his character. Gentlemen, we heartily reciprocate your sentiments!

POESY CLUB.

On Tuesday, December 9th, we attended a meeting of the Poesy Club, to hear what we expected from the programme would be a dissertation on "The Favourite Female Characters in Shakespeare," from the pen of Miss SARGANT. As we entered the Physics Lecture Theatre visions of a pleasant hour and a half to be spent in the agreeable society of the trustful Juliet, the man-hating Beatrice, the shrewish Catherine, and her beautiful opposite, Cordelia, rose in our mind's eye. We were doomed to a rather bitter disappointment. Miss Sargant began splendidly, with a thoroughly enjoyable literary portrait of Portia, in the "Merchant of Venice," and we were just beginning to feel comfortable in the expectation of some more as charming little vignettes, when the paper was brought to a somewhat abrupt close. The chief qualities of the favourite female characters in Shakespeare were all to be found typified in the famous lady-lawyer, and it was therefore quite superfluous to discuss others at length. The lecture—what there was of it—was an excellent one; but, like a favourite character in Dickens, the audience craved for more.

Tuesday, January 27th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—For the opening meeting of the term two papers were billed. The first bore the title "Ancient Ballads," to be read by Mr. JENKYN-BROWN. Mr. Brown had evidently experienced no little difficulty in selecting ancient ballads suitable to read before a modern audience. They were for the most part too archaic either in language or morals to find a place in the *répertoire* of the reciter of to-day. This fact may account for the introduction of Lovelace's song "To Lucasta on Going to the Wars;" George Wither's "Shall I Wasting in Despair;" and Dr. Goldsmith's "Madame Blaize," and "Elegy on a Mad Dog," which are all open to some objection as types of ballad poetry, ancient or modern. Mr. Brown is fluent, humorous, and always entertaining, but he certainly made a great mistake when he departed from the established precedent of reading a ready-prepared paper in favour of an extempore speech, and we must again warn the younger members of the college from treading in his footprints. Mr. Brown's contribution was quite unique in its way; he reminded us forcibly of Artemus Ward when he was wont to "speak a piece" on "The Babes in the Wood." After a few desultory remarks relative to the Town Hall meeting to be held an hour later, and other matters of a social and political character, he commenced to

read aloud extracts from several old ballads, interspersing them by the way with original topical remarks of his own. The readings from "The Ballad of Chevy Chase," "King John and the Abbot of Canterbury," and "Sir Patrick Spens," were given with a considerable amount of humour and much evident enjoyment. But however effective this new method of "letting your author speak for himself" may be in some cases, we found in it a very inferior substitute indeed for the carefully prepared symposia, which we have always been taught to expect at meetings of the Poesy Club.

Perhaps Mr. Brown has strong prejudices of his own as to what a literary disquisition should be, and cherishes valid objections to transcribing his thoughts upon paper before delivering them to an audience. If this is the modern development of the "paper"—and we have already had two examples of it from the mouth of Mr. Brown—we certainly prefer the good old-fashioned manner of Mr. Kineton Parkes. Mr. Parkes had for his subject "The Modern Ballad," and had composed for the occasion a carefully written and comprehensive dissertation of real literary value. Commencing with a notice of the little volume issued by Mr. Cottle, publisher, of Bristol, the reader dealt ably and at some length with the two great poems of Coleridge—"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and "Christabel," as of first importance in a study of the modern ballad. The nineteenth century yielded some fine post-Coleridgean ballads, but their number was not large. Southey, Shelley, Byron, and Keats never wrote this species of poetry. Lamb wrote a quasi-ballad, and Eliza Cook attempted a "Romaunt." Kingsley wrote four ballads, devoid of the necessary romantic impulse. Gerald Massey in his pathetic "Ballad of Babe Christabel" had approached a subject of every-day life, and had woven round it a beautiful romance. Hood wrote a number of ballads, grave and gay; and Longfellow contributed to this form of literature two poems, "The Skeleton in Armour" and "The Wreck of the Hesperus." Of far more value poetically is Browning's "How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix." Neither Tennyson nor Alfred Austin have written this kind of verse, and for true ballad literature we have to look to group of minor poets—Christina Rossetti, Mrs. Margaret L. Woods, Mrs. Graham, R. Tomson, Messrs. Joseph Skipsey and J. J. Britton. Mr. Parkes made a passing reference to another class of modern ballads, the works of Mackay and Bennett, and concluded with an interesting account of the revival of the genuinely romantic and supernatural ballad of Coleridge in the works of Dante Rossetti.

After a few remarks from the PRESIDENT and Dr. ALLEN, Mr. LEDSAM proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. P. E. MARTINEAU, and carried unanimously.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.—*December 10th.* Present, twenty-one members. Professor R. H. SMITH in the chair.—A paper on "Steam Generators," written by Mr. J. ASHFORD, was read by Mr. LANGFORD, in the absence of the author. The various types of Steam Generators were described, and some account given of the materials used in their construction and the different methods of treating them, &c. A discussion followed, in which the President and Messrs. Austin, Marks, Watkins, Pierce, and Langford took part, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

Wednesday, January 21st.—This was quite a memorable meeting. In spite of the fact that this was the night selected for the performance of the Dramatic Society, no less than 56 members and friends attended to hear Professor SMITH'S paper on "Oxygen-making Plant." Mr. LANGFORD was voted into the chair. The Professor pointed out the importance of oxygen in the arts, and the influence an abundant supply, cheap and pure, must exert on many of our industries, especially in such matters as welding, brazing, soldering, purifying coal-gas, &c., and many other things not yet discovered. The improvements introduced by the Bros. Brinn were described, and then the Professor went on to explain the arrangements of the works at Saltley, being assisted therein by sundry large diagrams. Mr. WYNN, from Messrs. Taunton and Co., performed some experiments showing how the oxygen was used in the lime-light, brazing, &c.; and in the discussion Mr. KENNETH MURRAY and Dr. THORNE, of the London Oxygen Works, and Mr. SACRÉ, the Manager of the Saltley Works, gave additional information. Votes of thanks to Professor SMITH for his paper, and to the other gentlemen for the assistance they had rendered, terminated the proceedings.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—*Thursday, November 13th.* Eighteen present. Dr. NICOL in the chair.—Mr. J. W. DAVIS elected a member.—Mr. G. E. BROWNE read a paper on "The Solubility of Oxygen in Water," in which he described the methods employed by Drs. Thresh and Schützenberger. Drs. NICOL and MARSHALL and Mr. LIVERSEEGE took part in the discussion, and a vote of thanks terminated the meeting.

Thursday, December 4th. Twelve present. Dr. TILDEN in the chair.—Mr. LIVERSEEGE read a paper on the "Accuracy of Pipettes"; and Mr. BECK one prepared by Mr. SAPEY (who was absent) on "Coal Gas and its Purification." A discussion was opened by Dr. TILDEN, and continued by Drs. NICOL and MARSHALL and Mr. PRYCE.—A vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

Thursday, February 5th.—ANNUAL MEETING.—Present, 36 members and friends. Dr. TILDEN in the chair. Misses TWIGG and BOURLAY, and Messrs. BUCKLEY, CADBURY, and NEWTON were elected members.

After the report and balance sheet for 1890 had been read and adopted, and a committee for the current year appointed, Mr. MILLAR performed an experiment to shew that, if the green solution of a Nickel salt be mixed with the pink one of a Cobalt salt in a certain proportion, the resulting solution is colourless if dilute, and if concentrated, black.

The President then delivered his annual address. Beginning with a description of the Atomic Theory as proposed by Dalton, Dr. TILDEN enumerated the hypothesis put forward at different times to account for Valency,

and for the existence of Isomers, giving in detail Van 't Hoff and Le Bel's explanation of Stereo-isomerism through the medium of the a-symmetrical carbon atom. He also spoke of the favour with which the notion of the vortex structure of matter was regarded, and referred to the vortex-atoms of Sir William Thomson, drawn from the investigations of Helmholtz. Dr. TILDEN concluded his address with a quotation from Clerk-Maxwell's article on "Atoms," in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Mr. WARD, in a humourous little speech, proposed a hearty vote of thanks; Miss SAXELBY appropriately seconded, and the motion was carried with applause. Dr. TILDEN's response brought the meeting to a close.

BIOLOGICAL UNION.—Five meetings have been held during the Winter term. Of these, three were devoted to papers :—1. "The Absorption of Nitrogen by Plants," Miss BAYLISS. 2. "The Comparative Physiology of Respiration," Mr. MYERS-WARD. 3. "Colour in Animals," Mr. BARCLAY, B.Sc. One was devoted to an Exhibition of Specimens, and one to the Election of Officers and a discussion on "The Celtic Theory," opened by Professor HILLHOUSE. The following is the list of officers:—President: Professor Bridge. Vice-presidents: Professors Allen, Hillhouse, and Windle. Committee: Misses Bayliss, K. M. Drane; Messrs. Emanuel, Emery, Griffiths, Haines, Menzies, and Rose. Secretary and Treasurer: C. F. Myers-Ward.

CERCLE DES DÉBATS.

On December 4th, 1890, the members of the *Cercle* met to discuss the question, "That Modern Explorations in Uncivilized Countries give but little aid to the march of Civilization."

The President, Mr. B. MINERS, M.A., first spoke in opposition to the proposition. Miss MARIE DONKIN, the first lady as yet who has had the courage to speak at the debates, then rose and supported the motion in a vigorous speech, of which the excellency in every respect called forth the well-merited praise of her successor, Mr. R. J. MICHIE. Mr. T. WILSON, while inclined to vote in the affirmative, wished to have an exact definition of 'civilization' and 'modern.' This was given in a telling manner by Miss CONSTANCE M. BOURLAY, who, in a well-worked up and carefully-delivered speech, supported the motion with energy. Mr. WILSON next spoke and was followed by Professor BÉVENOT. The PRESIDENT then put the motion to the meeting, and of the votes nine were in favour, none in opposition, while about ten were neutral. Undoubtedly this meeting was one of the most successful that has been held, and I think the *Cercle* have good cause for congratulation.

The report of the other meeting is held over till our next issue, for want of space.

GERMAN SOCIETY.

On the 12th of December, 1890, a meeting of this Society was held, when a very interesting programme of music and acting was given. The music was excellent, and each performer came in for her share of well-merited applause. The ladies who assisted were—Misses S. A. PEARSON, TYNDALL, B. T. KEEP,

DARE, Mrs. HOLLIDAY, and Mrs. HOUGHTON. After the music a short piece, *Moritz Schnörche* (by Moser), was given. The cast was as follows :—

Grosskopf	Mr. E. T. RAINSFORD.
Alice (his niece)	Miss F. EHRHARDT.
Moritz Schnörche...	Mr. C. F. CLAPHAM.
Ritschel, wahl-agent	Mr. B. MARKS.
Marie (Dieust-mädchen)	Miss O. MARRIS.

We must compliment the actors on the success of the piece. Only one or two things needed alteration. For instance, it would have been better if the prompter had not been *quite* so prompt in prompting, and if the voice had been a little less audible ; as it was, the audience knew beforehand what the next speech of some of the actors should be. However, the piece was amusing, and was appreciated by an attentive audience. We should add that Miss MARRIS, Miss EHRHARDT, and Mr. B. MARKS made their *début* in this piece. We hope this will not be their only appearance.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The *King Edward's School Chronicle* contains an article on "Life in the Bush," based on a letter written by a former pupil of the School. The weakly flippant style in which the subject is treated robs it of much interest. The rest of the number is filled with school-news.

The *Owens College Magazine* has unbent its severely intellectual tone, and publishes a parody on "Ask a Policeman"! We hope that the Christmas entertainment at which the said parody was sung was a huge success, as there is a genuine college ring about the selections given in the article before us. We can sympathise with the writer of "The Student Under Sixteen." Had he seen some of *our* "Types of College Men," perchance his pen would have dealt less gently with the system prevalent *apud Victorienses*, as with us, which admits these diminutive creatures to the College at all. "The Country" is weak, painfully weak. The clause—"The sun only shows himself seen blood-red through the intervening media"—besides being somewhat eccentric English, is too suggestive of the science of optics to be in keeping with the would-be warm poetic tone of the rest of the effusion. The author, however, is not scientific ; for later on he speaks of "the pure air renewing the wasted tissues of the body." We wonder if he considers a nice large piece of air a nutritious and satisfying comestible for a picnic.

The *Central Literary Magazine* has an ambitious, but somewhat indefinite, frontispiece — "The News Letter." An explanation of this mystic work would be advisable. The writer of "The Seal of the Confessional" professes to deal with the subject as "an ethical problem." We cannot congratulate him on the result of his "search for truth for truth's sake," as the article is devoid of coherency, and leads up to no definite conclusion whatever. The character of "His Last Week" is, perhaps, best illustrated by quoting its most humorous bit: "I saw the abandoned wretch actually walking with a female woman." There is no excuse for the verses "To-night and To-morrow." Possibly the author realised this when he wrote—

> There was no trouble in the thought
> That I should die to-night.

The Editor of *Laurel Leaves* is in doleful dumps. She is disheartened at the lack of interest taken in her paper, and pours forth a piteous wail, which,

in the words of the immortal Sam, went straight to our benevolent heart and came out on the other side. The only crumb of comfort we can throw her is that if *Laurel Leaves* is not appreciated by those for whom it is written—being, we suppose, caviare to the general—we, at least, always read it with great enjoyment. But listen, O Masonians, to what the Editor of this paper says of us:—"I really envy the editors of that paper. There are so many flourishing societies attached to the College, which send amusing and interesting reports to each number, that they can feel none of the anxiety so oppressive to editors of less flourishing magazines, or ask the often unanswered question, 'How are we to fill up?'" "Amusing and interesting!" Think of that ye carpers and detractors who call our reports "unfair and hypercritical." That is what a disinterested reader thinks of them. A magazine in the hands of so judicious an Editor *ought* to be a success.

The *Institute Magazine* is commencing a series of articles on "The Industries of Birmingham." The subject of the first is "The Infants Department of a Board School." The special claim this has to be considered a Birmingham industry is not made very clear.

The Editor also acknowledges, with thanks, the following:—*Institute Magazine, Girton Review, Marlburian, King Edward's School Chronicle, University College of Wales Magazine.*

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

We regret that in our last issue we omitted Mr. W. A. Brockington's name from the list of those who passed in the First Division of the London B.A. Examination.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

B.A. Examination for Honours.

Brockington, W. A., 1st Class in English, and Prize.
Wheeler, Emanuel, 2nd Class in Mental and Moral Science.
Mason, H. E., 3rd Class in English.
Malins, Joseph, 3rd Class in French.

B.Sc. Examination for Honours.

Chattaway, F. D., 1st Class in Chemistry.
Ingram, A. R. H., 3rd Class in Physics.

Preliminary Scientific (M.B.) Examination.

Chemistry and Experimental Physics.—Davenport, E. C., Horwitch, D., Mason, S. H., Nicol, W. P., Pedley, W. J., Thomas, L. T.

Biology.—Blanchard, T.

All these gentlemen, except Mr. Davenport, have completed the examination.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Rather more than a year ago a letter appeared in the *Magazine*, complaining of the decline of the French Debating Society, and appealing for more hearty support from the students. We presume that the students continue to show that lamentable want of interest in the Society, as an advertisement appeared in the *Daily Post* (one day this year) inviting people in no way connected with the College to join the Society. The position seems a strange one—a College Society unable to support itself without assistance from outsiders! Besides attending meetings held in the Lecture Rooms, it is to be supposed that such members will use the cloak-rooms (the accomodation

of which is even now entirely inadequate to the number of real students), and in other ways mix with the College students, without being in any way subject to the College authorities. Would it not be better to let the Society remain a small one and confined to the College students, than to endeavour to make it flourishing by advertising it in the daily papers, and calling in outside help—a means which no other society of our College would descend to?

Again have we cause for general joy and thanksgiving. In our last issue we had the pleasant task of announcing to the world the presence of a Classical genius within our walls, but this time it is the Science Students that have to rejoice. No only do we have to record the fact, but, to prove beyond a doubt the positive certainty of it, let us add that the precious words appended fell from the lips of the Philosopher himself:—'Twas in the Clinical Laboratory that the great discovery first was made. The individual, I mean the Philosopher, was about to light a Bunsen, and, taking up a pin, he struck it, but found no flame appear. After repeating the process two or three times, he noticed that it was a pin, and not a match, that he was endeavouring to strike, whereupon, in a very impressive tone, he philosophically remarked: "Ah! that's the way with a philosopher!"

In the General Committee appointed by the City Council of the new Technical School, Dr. Heath and Dr. Poynting have been appointed to represent Mason College, and Dr. Heath is Chairman of the Educational Sub-Committee.

We desire to assert that there is no truth in the current rumour that the Professors of the College attended the recent Mayoral Ball as the Gas Department.

It may interest the Engineering Students to know that Mr. F. W. Wilkinson, C.E., M.S.E.L., has been appointed chief engineer to the Siamese Public Works Department.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. C. J. Lay has received the distinguished honour of election to a Fellowship of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

We wish to offer our congratulations to Miss Lake on her appointment as Assistant Mistress at Norwich High School.

We would call attention to the fact that the Heslop Medal will, this year, be awarded for Mathematical and Physical Science, including Metallurgy and Engineering. The list of suggested subjects will be found on the screens.

We may remind our readers that the Ladies' Magazine Club is still in existence and needs support. Such reading is highly interesting and useful, and we cannot but express surprise that more ladies do not avail themselves of the advantages thus supplied.

The Treasurer of the above Club wishes to find a purchaser for the *Contemporary Review*. It may be had for the price of 1s. per number at the end of each month if the whole series is arranged for, but if such a purchaser cannot be found single copies may be had for 1s. 3d.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LIBRARY.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Madam,—In your issue of last November I observed a College note, re the Library, which appears somewhat misleading, and, with your permission, will explain the real nature of the changes which are being initiated.

The Note refers, in the first place, to the rearrangement of the books which has taken place, and gives the impression that this is of a nature so extensive as to render all previous knowledge of the Library useless. In reality there have been only two changes in this direction, and these of quite small magnitude. One of these is the dispersion of that division known as "Text Books," each book being arranged according to its subject instead of according to that artifical or highly indefinite arrangement indicated by the title just quoted. The other consists in the removal to the shelves thus made vacant of the Mathematical Division from among the Engineering books, these latter requiring more accommodation.

In the second place, the Note refers to the white tickets pasted on the backs of the books, and objects to the unpicturesque appearance they produce.

In answer to this objection I may state that these have for their example the great libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, and fulfil a twofold function. The first of these is to assign to every book an absolute place on its own shelf, so that it can be found at once by reference to the catalogue; and also to ensure that the absence of any particular book shall at once be notified.

The other function relates to the catalogue which is in process of formation, and which likewise is being constructed on the same principle as those at Oxford and Cambridge. This is being made in duplicate; and as soon as the catalogue of any section is complete one copy will be placed among the books of that section, and will at once be brought into use; while the other will be stowed away until those of all the other sections are complete, and then these will be combined into a general catalogue for the whole Library.

It would thus appear that the change in the Library, instead of being prejudicial, are such as common sense would dictate, and at the same time add greatly to the use and convenience of their own and highly valued College possessions.

I am, Madam, yours truly,

S. N. S.

Contributors are reminded that a new law has been passed by which contributions are to be sent in unsigned, and accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name, this to be returned unopened if the contribution is rejected. The editor desires also that it shall be stated inside the envelope whether the contributor is willing for his name to be published, and that the outside of the envelope may either bear a private or a College address, the name being replaced by a number or motto.

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THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

MARCH, 1891.

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(Conducted by the Students of Mason College, Birmingham.)

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OUR COLLEGE SOCIETIES.

THE UNION.

By the time these lines are in print the oldest of our College Societies will have completed the first decade of its existence. Is it a sign of the utilitarianism of our aims, of the intensity of the struggle for existence, or of the inconstancy of human interests that not one of the Committee of fifteen students who superintended the birth of the Union is now a student of the College? We are content to leave this question for consideration by more philosophical minds, and to regard the event merely as a fitting occasion to present our readers with a picture of the Union and other College Societies as they now exist.

The Masonian, trying to explain to the enquiring outsider what a Union Meeting is, usually begins by saying, "Well, you know, first of all we have tea." We regret to have to admit that there are members who are but little qualified by personal knowledge to describe any "subsequent proceedings of this same society." They owe their existence to an unwarrantable dissociation of the twin aims of the Union—viz., intellectual exercises and social intercourse. That the possibility of this dissociation is still further illustrated by the complemental existence of a sect who attend the papers, &c., but reck not of tea, we should hesitate to assert.

Only those acquainted with the inner reasons of things and the respective interiors of both the men's and the women's common rooms can account for the fact that just before a Union Meeting, while as yet there is no sign of any feminine interest in the proceedings, groups of male students gather at the Library end of the corridor, and gaze at the open door of the Physics Laboratory with the gaze of him who from the pit of the theatre watches at 7.25 p.m. the deliberate ascent of the

asbestos fire-proof curtain. The explanation of this by the keener appetite of the male being is negatived by the punctual and eager procession of ladies at 5.15 p.m. down the corridor to the tea-table. The entry of the first half-dozen ladies is the signal for the incursion of the male element, and five minutes later within that room

. . . "all is bustle, row, squeeze, jabbering, and jam."

The accustomed eye, however, discerns in the apparent confusion some settled features. Looking into the room from the door, the right side behind the line of the cross table is seen to be occupied by a dense mass of men, none of whom apparently have found any opportunity for refreshment from breakfast-time till now. A similar smaller, though no less busy, group lines the table on the left. In the open space at the back, where no lady ever ventures, a few restless male spirits skirmish for provisions, or talk darkly, with an occasional misogynistic glance at the other end of the room. Along the front table is a dense group of ladies; while on the right wing towards the door, and in the open space at the front of the room, male and female students mingle at will, and here alimentation is subordinated to conversation. Here officers of the Union may be seen preparing to pounce on victims to propose votes of thanks or second amendments. It is strange, moreover, if there be not a small but eager group discussing matters dramatic. The polite member who attempts to convey a cup of tea from the distant tables to a lady in this part of the room has a task analogous to his who essayed to steer between Scylla and Charybdis. We also notice the solitary figure of the treasurer behind his desk at the door with some compassion, albeit food is brought to him as to Elijah at the brook of Cherith.

As bodily wants are satisfied, conversation waxes, and the noise becomes deafening. The ringing of a bell is received in the first instance with profound indifference, and frequently two or three such hints are necessary before any movement upstairs is made. Then, however, the room quickly empties, and while some are seen no more at that meeting, the majority reassemble in the Biology Lecture Theatre. Here, the proceedings closely resemble those of any other literary society, papers and debates forming the usual attraction, while an occasional reading, or one of the popular musical evenings, serves to vary the programme from time to time. Somewhat special to the Society is the dignity of demeanour

displayed by the officers seated behind the desk, while *habitués* of the Union become aware of the existence of what is technically known as "the back row."

This institution, though it has not yet existed long enough for its origin to baffle antiquaries, has flourished for a much longer period than is desirable. It consists of an assemblage of male students on the extreme back benches of the theatre, apparently desirous of disturbing the meetings by ill-timed and exaggerated applause, and other ungentlemanly and fatuous interruptions. The special charm of the back benches is not obvious: certainly the position affords some advantage to the student of millinery, as also to those interested in artistic hairdressing, and possibly to phrenologists, if any still exist. None of these reasons, however, account for the existence of the back row so well as modesty: modesty is its main characteristic; though repeatedly urged to do so, it can never summon courage to take up a position nearer to the Chairman. Seclusion and semi-darkness appear to be essential to its operations. By some it is supposed that its constituent elements are, without exception, medical students. This we regard as doubtful: it is at any rate strange that the same section of students who have supplied the Union with a majority of its able and courteous chairmen should also furnish the collection of unmannerly imbeciles known as "the back row."

We have mentioned some salient features of the Union. During its ten years of existence it has, from time to time, been accused of being governed by a clique, and other vague iniquities. The regular changes of officers and the method of their election seem, however, really to keep it singularly free from such faults. As to the fulfilment of its functions, we may say that on the intellectual side they are well discharged. The establishment of the Scientific Societies has relieved it of the questionable duty of providing papers on technical and abstruse subjects, and so, to our mind, has much increased the attractiveness of its programmes. If its debates are weak, that is the fault of the members, not the management. The latter might, however, stipulate for a modicum of argument, and abolish that anomaly, the member who reads, usually very badly, a written *speech*. With the social achievements of the Union we are not satisfied. Its tea is no doubt a great institution: old students dropping in are enabled to revive or foster college acquaintanceships. But we think more might be done at these festivals to make students known one to another. We are conscious of having no definite plan to suggest, but the Committee of the

Union represents the collective wisdom of the College, and to them we leave the matter with every confidence.

THE POESY CLUB.

"Ours is the only society of the kind attached to any of the English Colleges" was the proud boast of the indefatigable president of the Mason College Poesy Club to the writer of the present article. This unique College Society at the beginning of next June enters on the seventh year of its life. It was on June 4th, 1885, that about sixteen members assembled under the presidency of Professor Arber, in the English Lecture Theatre, and constituted themselves a club "for the study of English Poetry and the Drama." The choice of a name was not the least interesting feature in the proceedings of this memorable evening. Eight several titles were subjected, among them *Dilettanti*, *Virtuosi*, and the *English Club*. The final selection was confined to the *Thalian Club* and the *Poesy Club*.

Since that night about fifty meetings have been held, and the mine of poetry, lyrical and dramatic, opened up on these fifty evenings, through the medium of symposia, debates, and papers, has been a rich one. The Poesy Club is not at all exclusive, or of a tory spirit in its choice of subjects. Lectures on the *Faerie Queene*, George Herbert, Bailey's *Festus*, Milton, Wyatt and Surrey, Matthew Arnold, the *Arthurian Legends*, Browning, and Shakespeare from many points of view, stand side by side with dissertations on Bret Harte, the *Passion Play* at Ober-Ammergau, and *Pantomimes*. Nor are its members at all archæological in their tastes. A glance over the records of past meetings shows us that the subjects treated are, for the greater part, matters of every-day interest in the world of letters. Perhaps the most thoroughly enjoyable of all the Poesy Club evenings is the Dramatic Reading, given once every year, on the last meeting of the Spring term. The first of these readings was devoted to Browning's *Colombe's Birthday*. Tennyson's *Falcon* followed, and then the Poesyites began to feel their ground a little, and a long evening was devoted to Shakespeare's *Richard II.* Bulwer Lytton has been represented by his greatest drama, *The Lady of Lyons*, and last year a special tribute was paid to Sheridan Knowles, a dramatic author whom we can almost claim as a fellow townsman, by a reading of *The Hunchback*.

Let the members of the Poesy Club, however, beware lest their well-seeming fabric is built up on shifting sand, and their success

but an unsubstantial mirage. There has been much muttering about the inner workings of the Club, and we are bound, however unwillingly, to confess that the complaints of the murmurers are not without some ground of justification. The spirit of cliquism has reigned rampant for many years; new blood must be drafted in wholesale—not dribbled in, to be swamped by old conservative prejudice. If the Club is to become as popular as it deserves to be with the systematic students of to-day, a committee of present working students is required, whereas, at this moment, there is but one gentleman on committee who has the least iota of a claim to be regarded as a present systematic student of the College. There is a time in the life of an old student when he passes the stage of committee and becomes an honoured spectator in the field of former triumphs. That this is an axiom which more than one member of the Poesy Club is not too ready to recognise is shown by the following facts:—During the life of the Club there have been seven committees chosen. Two members have served on six of these, three members on five, three on four committees, and a like number have worked the Club for three and two years respectively. The obvious, if somewhat unpleasant, deduction from these facts is—that during the six years of its existence the Poesy Club has practically been managed by some eight individuals, while those five members who have from year to year served almost continuously on the Club committees must have had a very undue share in the ordering of its affairs.

But this is not all. The ordinary members of the club have absolutely no voice in the election either of secretaries, treasurer, or chairman. This power is wholly vested in the committee, who elect all these officers from their own number. If the committee was constantly changing, like the Union Committee, every year, we could see less objection to this distinctly invidious practice; but if, as the cavillers tell us, the government of the Club is left in the hands of a small clique of old students, far too little in touch with the pulsations of College life of to-day, this is but an incentive to further carping and discontent.

Thus much have we unwillingly sacrificed at the altar of Discord. There is no single individual, and no society of individuals without its own special skeleton-closet; and the skeleton-closet of the Poesy Club is without doubt its committee-room. But on one point there can be no two opinions that the Poesy Club, mainly from its quite extraordinary position, engaging, as it does, the sympathies of both faculties, is by far the most

popular and uniformly-successful sectional society, both in point of numbers and interest, ever inaugurated within the walls of Mason College. Lewis Morris once impressed upon the Club the necessity of "keeping the imaginative faculty alive among students of science, in the interests of science itself." Our science students have fully recognised this fact, for they have their representatives in the Poesy Club in quite as great numbers as the Art Students.

The Poesy Club Prize is now a recognised College institution. Once every year the members of this Club offer a prize to the value of one guinea for the best essay on the works of some poet to be selected by the committee, and, next to the Heslop and Naden medals, the possession of this prize has become the most coveted literary distinction of the College.

Twice during the year the members of the Society unbend. Once when, at the time of the Annual General Meeting, the tedium of the business is enlivened with a concert and a short dramatic performance, given by members of the Club, some of them of marked histrionic ability; and again, on the occasion of the Annual Excursion.

The Poesy Club Excursion is not a literary "pilgrimage" in any sense of the word, nor ordained with the special object of literary research. We, for our part, cannot see how this were possible. It is only a part of pleasure, a mere *remissio laboris*, and the most enjoyable College function we have ever assisted at. We do not wish it to be understood from this that a club, founded expressly "for the study of English Poetry and the Drama" would pass through Cambridge without gazing on the Milton relics, or leave Windsor without crossing the bridge, and taking a glance at *Roister Doister* in the Eton College Library. Little sacrifices such as these have to be made every day by every one of us, if only for appearance sake. But now that Oxford and Cambridge and Windsor have been worked, the Excursion bids fair to become more of a pleasure-trip than ever, and the latest project—a grand picnic on the banks of the Wye—certainly sacrifices very little at the shrine of "English Poetry and the Drama."

In conclusion, we would say to members of the Poesy Club, "Your advantages as a College Society are altogether exceptional; your position in a Science College a unique one. For the evils in your government, which we have had occasion to point out, we feel assured you have ready to hand a swift and certain remedy."

BART PIERS.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

There is something in the air of the Physical Society which is elevating and *distingué*. None but the true seeker after knowledge finds a haven here. The path of learning is beset with thorns, and the Physical Society does not truckle to human weakness by attempting to disguise this truth. Hence the flippant and the indifferent feel, after their first attendance, that they can find more congenial spheres elsewhere. The motives inducing the members to come are pure and disinterested: they are not there for the sake of any social advantages; their ranks are not recruited by the prospect of cheap trips to Oxford or Cambridge, nor are they there to witness the spectacle of a Society with more professors than students, as in the case of the Biological Society. One might almost gauge the amount of scientific interest in the College by the fluctuation in membership of the Physical Society.

The papers delivered are not as those of other Societies: there is no pandering to popular ignorance, no lowering of the subject to the level of untutored intellect. "Science made Easy" or "Science for the Million" is a collection of deceptions and snares when the science is physical science, and as such the Physical Society has no part nor lot with it. To the new and youthful member the only end served by its first few papers is to convince him of a totally new form of ignorance; for four, or perhaps five, minutes he fancies he follows the speaker, and then he does not fancy anything at all about it—he knows he does not. He resolves to trouble himself no longer with conceptions of "space of n dimensions;" he even, in the sudden revulsion of his feelings, resolves to send in his resignation; but the next subject seems more luring, and he resolves to cast in his lot once more with a "Pisgah view of Diagrams," or "the School of Science at Alexandria." And so he finds himself by degrees able to follow the subject to the bitter end, and sits down to listen to papers on "Hylo-idealism" or "Diagrammatic Methods of Treating Diffraction" or "Magnetic Hysteresis" with an independent, free-and-easy grace totally foreign to his former conduct, and bred of familiarity with the subject.

We do not wish to imply that all are actuated by the same high motives, or that all act on such actuations. Some there are who are indifferent and careless from the first. We recollect one of that number who undertook to second a vote of thanks, which he did as follows: "I am much indebted to the Lecturer for his exceedingly interesting paper. Though I have under-

stood little or nothing of it, I have made several first-rate drawings of the Lecturer's head." And he sat down, evidently glorying in his sinful behaviour, and at peace with all the world.

Turning to the subject of discussions, we cannot avoid the feeling that there is a tottering weakness about them which is only varied by lack of any discussion at all. We remember the first occasion on which we dared to dispute the accuracy of the Lecturer. He was attempting to produce a small current in a roundabout and curious way which we did not in the least understand, the said current being made visible by the movements of a blurred spot of light on a scale. The spot should have moved to the right, and the Lecturer maintained that it *did* move at least half a degree in that direction. We, on the other hand, were sitting close by, and maintained that the spot moved half a degree to the left. The experiment was repeated with the same results in the way of affirmations and negations. We rose from our seat to show where the spot *had* moved to; the Lecturer pointed out that such was *primâ facie* absurd, and kept to his old bigoted opinion. At this point it was pointed out that the galvanometer was not in circuit at all; so the spot had not moved either way. Such is the difficulty of dealing with small motions.

A SONG.

Music thou of trilling sweetness,
Chords of harmony,
Rippling streams of crystal fleetness
Fresh and free;
Damask-coated, dewy-scented
Cups of Nature's filling,
Rose-bloom that no blight hath entered
Perfume-sweet distilling.

Trills thou art that to their trilling
Find a swift replying,
Chords that wake new chords in trilling,
Echoes never-dying;
Liquid sunshine swiftly flowing
Through my weary years,
Fresh-blown roses, Hope still drawing
Through my dreary fears.

FRANK HILL.

THROUGH MY LOOKING-GLASS.

Twelve years had passed since I had last heard from my uncle the Commissioner in India, when, on January 1st of the present year, I was aroused from my usual matutinal study of the *Daily Telegraph* by a sudden and violent ringing of the front-door bell, which heralded the arrival of a large packing-case, and a small note to the following effect:—

"Chutnee,

"Bengal, India,

"November, 1890.

"My Dear Boy,—Greeting to you! Accept accompanying package as a little New Year's gift. The packing-case, you will find contains a looking-glass which, by the Hindoos here, is believed to possess extraordinary qualities. Under certain conditions, they tell me, it will reveal the ultimate consequences of any action or event in which the owner is concerned. I have no doubt that this is all balderdash, but at any rate it is a valuable curiosity.—Yours, "Ned."

The looking-glass I discovered to be about three feet high by two broad, and curiously framed in the native fashion. I was not slow in putting my uncle's statement to the proof, and found that the Hindoos were by no means mistaken as to its remarkable qualities. As a member of the Mason College Union, of course *the* one event which occupied my mind was the ultimate fate of the College Colours; what would be the result to society now that Mason College had resolved to take unto itself hues of claret and amber for its adornment? Revolving this thought, on a fateful evening in January, turning the lights low, I sat down opposite the magic glass and watched.

In a few minutes four small lights began to play about the corners of the mirror. They flickered there for a moment, and then advanced steadily towards the centre, growing in power as they went, until the whole glass was one blaze of fire. Presently the fire grew less and less, and faded to a bright warm glow, which lit up the mirror like a lime-light screen.

Many figures began to pass to and fro. At length one took definite shape. He was an old man, in a long flowing robe, and though by no means of patriarchal aspect, yet sufficiently dignified and imposing. He bore in his hand a roll of ancient lore, on which was writ in letters of gold, "Ingatherings from our History and Literature." He spoke in loud clear tones.

"Colourless they went from the beginning. But the time is come. Colours shall they have, that the world may know them, and do homage. Here shalt thou see a vision of what is to be, and when thou hast seen it, shalt thou say, 'All this have the Colours wrought?'"

He was gone, but the confused mass of figures had again taken shape, and among them I seemed to recognise many well-known faces, though they had grown in years since I had last seen them, and all wore a necktie of claret and amber, and on their left breasts a curious device, a shield and double-headed griffin, surmounted by a helmet of silver. There was Lord H—— and J——; there, too, was B—— of the caustic wit, arm-in-arm with the mild L——, and others too numerous to mention.

And then I beheld a wondrous sight, for just as soon as any of these figures appeared, with the necktie of varied hue, and the strange device on the left breast, the whole concourse bowed, and did them homage, crying, "Hail! sons of learning and wisdom."

Again the mirror took shape. This time it was the pit of a well-known theatre, with a view of the distant stage, whereon were maidens of wondrous beauty, dancing in scanty garb. Who are those solemn young men that sit in the front rows, and speak in hurried whispers? I think I have seen them before: their faces are familiar, but that is all. When I beheld them last they bore no strange device, they were gay of mien, and jaunty of bearing; and some of them carried in their hands the fruits of the earth, which they gave to whom they liked best. But now they are clothed in black, they gaze lovingly upon their neckties and upon their left breasts, and the expression on their faces is one of grave responsibility; many are weeping as they behold the scene before them, while others turn away their heads, and groan heavily. Presently they rise to leave, and as they pass out in solemn file, the theatre rings with the loud acclaim, "Hail! sons of learning and wisdom."

"Who are they?" asks a passer-by, "and what is that strange device they bear?"

"They are sons of art and science," says one; "and the colours they wear are the claret and amber of their college."

Then many visions passed in quick succession before my gaze —a warm, snug library, with books done in claret and amber, and armchairs with cushions of like hue; then a shield and arms of a great city with the motto "Forward" on a field of claret and

amber; and, last of all, there fluttered across the mirror a scrap of paper—it was the cover of the *Mason College Magazine* in colours of claret and amber, and on the paper was written in large capitals, "The Treasurer earnestly requests that subscriptions will not be paid more than six months in advance."

The mirror then was dark, but only for a moment. This time it was a large room, with beautiful hangings in claret and amber, ottomans and armchairs, all upholstered in the same gorgeous colours. In the grate a bright fire blazed merrily, and lolling on the chairs and ottomans in picturesque repose were many young men with the necktie of varied hue and the strange device on the left breast, to whom hot coffee was continually served on silver salvers. On a board near the tapestried entrance were written the "Rules of the Common Room." A low murmur of voices pervades the room. Here stands a group enjoying a little social conversation on the Bishopric scheme; others are listening to the last racy story from the *Good Templar* office—"Only a small 'nightcap,' or the Beginning of the End"—which one is reading out of the *Band of Hope Review*. A small body of classical enthusiasts is discussing the merits and demerits of Athenian art, while in the far corner another group is making final arrangements for a gigantic temperance meeting to be held on the morrow, at which it is confidently expected the remnant of the students will take the pledge. This meeting is to be followed by a select social evening, the programme of which is lying on the table. Several items attract my notice. They include "Casabianca," and a popular reading from General Booth's last new work.

Presently a figure crossed the disc who was evidently a stranger in the room, for he wore not the necktie of varied hue, nor the strange device on the left breast, although I seemed to recognise the face.

"I say, you fellows!" the stranger cried, "have you seen *Pick-Me-Up* lying about?"

A cry of horror woke the echoes of the room. When he had sufficiently recovered, the Secretary advanced slowly.

"We know not," he said "of the paper of which you speak, but we have here the *Christian Million*, *Great Thoughts*, and the *Leisure Hour*, also *Good Words*, and the *British Workman*."

And then the stranger turned and brushed away a tear, and I wept too. Even the looking-glass looked pained and disgusted, and revealed no more that night. BART PIERS.

CHATTERTON.

["He struggled with famine as long as it was possible, and then, on the evening of the 24th August, 1770, he retired to his garret, locked himself in, tore up all his manuscripts, and poisoned himself with arsenic."]

'Tis very dark, and through the casement
  Shrills the cold night wind;
And here alone I wrest with hunger,
  Weariness in heart and mind.
How easy now, without the light,
  To end the hopeless strife!
And 'neath the shadow of the night
  To steal away from life.

I, who have given my soul in singing
  Songs that came to me,
Must I wear this life in anguish,
  Steeped in misery?
From such a death in life, 'tis death
  Alone can give release,
'Tis but the panting, parting breath,
  That hails the dawn of peace.

O Heaven! to break the heart that 's longing
  All it feels to tell,
To still the Fancy, charmed to utterance
  By the Poet's spell;
O cruel World! could I but live,
  Not suffer as Time's slave,
What soulful tribute would I give
  To praise the God who gave!

'Tis very still; the darkness deepens;
  No disturbing sound
Breaks through the silence of Night's shadows:
  All is gloom profound.
There! It is done. Earth's bonds, away!
  Peace, peace, thou aching breast.
Behold the bright eternal day!
  Rest, weary spirit, rest.

ALFRED ALLEN.

COLLEGE NOTES.

We have long felt that in a pushing scientific College like ours, those pasteboards, bearing the elegant legend "All Conversation is strictly prohibited," which beautify our Library windows, should not be permitted to pass down life's way in useless idleness. They surely, we thought, have a function to perform, which it is for the inventive mind to discover. The inventive mind which has at length discovered this function, strange to say, is an Arts Student. His proposal is worthy of our best consideration. "Will any gentleman," he asks, "of a charitable frame of mind, supply for the public use, about a dozen almanacs for '91?" These almanacs, we understand, it is his intention to gum upon the backs of the elegant pasteboards aforesaid, that he who runs may read. The ultimate object, we suppose, which these innocent pasteboards have in view is to keep that peace and order essential to quiet and scientific research; and how often is the peace of the Library disturbed by harmless little pow-wows, which had their direct origin in a simple question as to the day of the month? They could not, we are sure, more efficiently minister to this object than by accepting the proposition of our inventive Arts man.

If the almanac project prove a success, other uses to which these cardboards may be placed will immediately suggest themselves to the scientific mind. They would be most effective as subsidiary notice-boards for the various College Societies. Small almanacs might be procured, and the rest of the space allotted to the secretaries to gum up the literary and scientific programmes for the term. If this method of posting up members were adopted, there would be much less excuse for the inevitable Mr. Nolens, who is always "so sorry, you know, I couldn't come; but really I had quite forgotten the date. Awful sell! I've lost my programme, you know."

Going by chance into the Common Room the other day, we remarked the following notice on the board:—"Card-playing, or any other form of gambling, is strictly prohibited." We felt that it was a great misfortune that the Common Room Committee should have found itself compelled to designate card-playing as a "form of gambling." We cannot for a moment conceive why there should be more inducement to wager twopence on an innocent game of whist or cribbage than on a game

of draughts. It is certainly rather hard that the man who does not care to lower his intellectual capacity to the level of draughts, and has not yet mastered the intricacies of the Royal Chess, should have no option left him but to smoke and brood in silence. A game of whist does tend to a certain extent to keep the faculties awake; but a more stupidly unintellectual game than draughts it would be hard for the human mind to imagine. But to draughts we must be condemned till men will learn how unnecessary and unwholesome is the excitement of gambling over a simple game at cards.

The Mason College Tennis Club has now had two years' rest and many of the present students would like to see it in its former prosperous condition, when it was the great source of amusement for Saturday afternoon. If some energetic student would step forth from the ranks there is no doubt his trouble would be rewarded by the gratitude and enjoyment of the tennis-players of the College.

It is evident our correspondent "A Well-wisher of the Union," whose letter is in the correspondence column this month, does not realise the difficulties which fall to the lot of the Union Committee, nor appreciate the efforts which our own Board is making to raise the efficiency of the performances of the students by judicious criticism. The Union Committee feels quite as much as he does the desirability of holding debates frequently. The reason there are none this term is because of the difficulty of finding an unhackneyed, interesting, and suitable subject. If our correspondent will suggest some for next term the Committee will feel deeply indebted to him. The difficulty of getting speakers does not exist. At the last debate there were several members who failed "to catch the Speaker's eye" although the meeting was prolonged beyond the usual time. Clearly, therefore, members are not so much afraid of our critiques as our correspondent imagines.

He speaks of debates as educative agencies. Surely he can see that their value must be enhanced by careful criticism. What would he think, if, when he had written a Latin exercise, his tutor simply told him it was good or bad, without pointing out mistakes and suggesting improvements? Seriously, we think our criticisms ought not to deter anyone from speaking at debates.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The number of the *Marlburian* we have received contains, in addition to matter of purely local interest, a crisp little essay on "Proverbs," which are discussed under the heads of Domestic, Malignant, Imbecile, and Depraved Proverbs. In the column devoted to Poetry there are three items, of which the most ambitious is a sonnet. This is by no means as perfect in form as we should like. The fact that the presentation of the motive occupies but six lines spoils its proportion to the application; while dignity is lost by the use of the final rhymed couplet without any pause at the end of the twelfth line. The lines to the Aristotle MS. are simple, but pleasing. Surely the "ever" in the third line of the third verse is redundant.

King Edward's School Chronicle contains a scheme for the regulation of the School Cricket, which, it is hoped, will do for that game what a similar scheme has done for the Football of the School; a report of what seems to have been a clever and amusing debate on the expediency of exterminating cats; an article of considerable merit on three of R. L. Stevenson's works; and the usual budget of School news.

The January number of the *University College (Aberystwith) Magazine* contains an article descriptive of Haydn's *Creation*, which we wish were longer; another on "St. Stephen's" possessing but average merit, and one called "Phantom's Grove," which is doubtless intelligible to the initiated. The number is spoilt by a set of verses which could well have been spared. Phrases like "kids yelled" and "blooming slavey" are not suited to a magazine like this, and the whole composition is hopelessly vulgar.

In the February number of the same Magazine 'Pheles describes the Golden Future, when

> "A phonograph will take each lecturer's place,
> Turned at the most accomodating pace:
> At every joke will make a decent pause,
> Thus giving time for well-deserved applause."

We have also a thoughtful article on "Stage Education" from the Player's point of view, and some interesting reminiscences of the Aberystwyth College folk in former times.

The *Institute Magazine* contains a new departure in the form of a series of abstracts from the more important Philosophical Journals. They are written by the Students, and are both interesting and instructive, and will add greatly to the value of

this Magazine. We notice some of them are from the pen of our fellow-student, Mr. J. J. Sudborough. There is also a scrappy article on "The Poems of Rossetti," which is strangely contradictory. After stating that the "Blessed Damozel" is not surpassed by any poem in the language, the writer denies the author the title of a great poet. The Magazine contains original poetry also; for example—

Witching eyes so darkly gleaming,
Wavy wreath of dusky hair,
Maiden shape of graceful seeming,
Are ye all she has of rare?

We are left in a state of pleasing uncertainty as to the solution of this conundrum. Perhaps it will be in the next number.

THE UNION.

Friday, February 6.—BUSINESS MEETING.—Mr. HAINES in the chair.—The Treasurer, Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON presented the Balance-sheet for the Winter Term, showing a balance in hand, and moved its adoption.—Mr. C. E. MARTINEAU, in seconding the motion, explained that one item of last Session's expenditure had been overlooked, and this made the balance in hand less than it would otherwise have been.—Miss SAXELBY then moved the following alteration in Rule 7 for the conduct of the *Magazine*, so that it should read—"All unsigned contributions must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name of the contributor; this envelope to be returned unopened if the contribution is not accepted." After an explanation of the advisability of this rule by Miss SAXELBY, Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously, thus becoming a law of the Union.—The CHAIRMAN then moved the following alteration in Rule 5, viz.— . . . . "Any member whose subscription, after three applications from the Treasurer, remains unpaid on the last day of the Summer Session shall be reported to the Committee, who shall, at their discretion, erase his or her name from the list of members; such action to be entered on the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee."—The CHAIRMAN explained the unsatisfactory nature of the rule as it then stood, and the resolution was seconded by Miss SAXELBY. Mr. INGRAM was of opinion that the non-paying member should be informed that his name was about to be placed before the Committee, and therefore moved, as an amendment, that the words "after a final communication from the Secretary to the member" be inserted between "shall" and "at their discretion." This was seconded by Mr. PUGH. Mr. J. HARRISON thought that the resolution, if carried, would put too much power in the hands of the Committee, and might lead to complaints of partiality on their part, and therefore moved, as an amendment to the amendment, that the words "at their discretion" be omitted. This was seconded by Mr. BRANSON, and carried; and on being put again as a substantive resolution, was carried by a three-fourths majority, and thus became a law of the Union. Rule 5 now stands— . . . . "Any member whose subscription, after three applications

from the Treasurer, remains unpaid on the last day of the Summer Session shall be reported to the Committee, who shall, after a final communication from the Secretary to the member, erase his or her name from the list of members, such action to be entered on the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee."—Mr. CLAPHAM then moved the following resolution: "That on a certain day, to be fixed by resolution, the names of those members whose subscriptions are in arrears be posted on the notice-board of the Union." Mr. HOWARD, in seconding the resolution, expressed his opinion that the non-payment of subscriptions was due chiefly to forgetfulness, and thought that non-paying members coming to Union meetings, and seeing their names posted up, would thereby be reminded, and would at once seek out the Treasurer. Mr. MARKS thought that as many members would object to the posting of their names, due notice should be given to them of the intention of the Committee to do so before it was actually done; and therefore moved, as an amendment, that the words "after due notice from the Secretary" be inserted between "be" and "posted." This was seconded by Miss KEEP. Mr. EMERY thought that the time of posting the names was too indefinite in the resolution, and moved, as an amendment, that the words "not after the middle of the Summer Term, and not before two applications from the Treasurer" be substituted for "to be fixed by resolution." Mr. INGRAM seconded the amendment, which was carried, and on being put to the meeting again as a substantive resolution was again carried, but not by a three-fourths majority, and, therefore, stands over till the next business meeting.—Mr. MARKS moved the following alteration in Bye-law 8, to read: "Visitors shall be admitted to the Union meetings only on delivering up a ticket, to be obtained from the Treasurer at or before the tea." This was seconded by Mr. BROCKINGTON, and carried unanimously.—Mr. MARKS then moved and Miss KEEP seconded the following alteration in Rule 3 for the conduct of the *Magazine*, so that it shall read: "The price of one copy shall be 6d. The annual subscription shall be payable in October, and shall be 3s., and post free 3s. 6d." On being put to the meeting this was carried unanimously.—The CHAIRMAN moved the following alteration in Rule 16, to read—" . . . . All students may attend the first ordinary meeting in each term." This was seconded by Mr. MARKS and carried unanimously.—The Treasurer of the *Magazine*, Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON, then read the balance-sheet of the last Session showing a small deficit, and in moving its adoption, explained that the departure from the College of the late Treasurer had been the cause of its late presentation. The adoption was seconded by Mr. HARRISON, and carried unanimously.

Friday, February 13th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—Professor SONNENSCHEIN showed a series of limelight views of "Greece." Including under this term Magna Græcia, he took first many of the Greek colonies on the West and South coasts of Italy and in Sicily, before dealing with Greece proper. His illustrations, as regards the latter, were confined almost entirely to Athens and its neighbourhood. The views were exceptionally good, and this in face of the difficulties, referred to by Professor Sonnenschein, arising from the want of enterprise on the part of the native photographers. As we feel quite unequal to describing

the beauties of the places to which we were in spirit rapt, we must leave those of our readers who failed to attend the meeting to imagine them as best they can. Mr. Howard's management of the lantern was most efficient, and contributed not a little to the success of the meeting.—A vote of thanks was proposed by Professor SMITH, seconded by Miss JENKYN-BROWN, and carried unanimously.

Friday, February 27th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair. In the absence of Mr. Montague Fordham, the Rev. T. R. NICHOLSON endeavoured to answer to the satisfaction of the House the difficult question, "How Shall We Employ our Brains and Money?" We may say at once that the lecture delivered by Mr. Nicholson, as we had expected from a man of his wide experience and sound judgment, was of a highly interesting character. If we were inclined to be hypercritical, which—when the whole was of such high excellence—we are not, we might object to the rather egotistical air of superior knowledge sometimes assumed by Mr. Nicholson, which was rather galling to intelligent members, who take a pride in holding an opinion of their own on questions such as these, of universal interest. The House showed a half-stifled inclination to dispute the ground taken up by the Lecturer when he affirmed that all our difficulties were of an economical nature, and that with the abolition of economic difficulties, moral and spiritual difficulties would disappear. But he evidently touched the sympathies of the meeting with the statement that the backbone of our society was the Middle Class, the class of the fairly hard workers; and the real drags on the community were not only the extremely poor, but also the immoderately rich. Mr. Nicholson confessed himself at first a staunch opponent of the policy of Lady Bountiful, to give "of our own abundance." Indiscriminate giving, he said, was but an encouragement to poverty. The problem we have to solve is, how to feed the community without making it look to us for support, and without starving it. "How, then, shall we employ our brains?" asked Mr. Nicholson, and the answer came immediately: by turning them to the solution of this great social problem. A little laughter from the upper part of the House at this point disturbed the dead stillness of the meeting. The worldly portion of the members there assembled had evidently destined their cerebral faculties for other and more lucrative personal advantage. Mr. Nicholson has had no little experience in the slums of our large city, and we could not help confessing, however unwillingly, that there was much weight in his testimony as to the absolute impossibility of making any very effective stand, under present conditions of society, against modern vice and drunkenness. In conclusion, Mr. Nicholson read a passage from the pen of Mr. Fordham. "Liberty," said Mr. Fordham, "is Utopia, Equality but a dream; but Fraternity is no passing fancy, and through Fraternity alone can we attain to Liberty and Equality."—The lecture was followed by an energetic discussion, in which a gentleman, in a somewhat spasmodic speech of considerable length, affirmed that the matter in dispute between Individualist and Socialist was simply a question of method: and Miss JENKYN-BROWN expressed her opinion that any action in these matters must come from the capitalist himself, and not from the employé. Professor SONNENSCHEIN pleaded a "not proven" against the statement of Mr. Nicholson that the policy of Lady Bountiful was not only useless, but a positive danger to the State, and brought forward many examples of giving without pauperising. Study of Socialist literature,

he said, had not impressed him with either the practical character or even the theoretical correctness of their opinions. The fundamentals of their belief—the abolition of coinage—was a mere impracticable fancy of an advanced Radical brain, and State production a myth. Socialistic principles, said Mr. INGRAM, were built upon a false hypothesis. "Let it be granted," they asked, "that if it is possible for a man to do right, the man will do right." This was a postulate which he, for his part, could never grant. Mr. W. D'ESTE EMERY concluded the discussion by once more testifying to the utter impossibility of advanced Socialism as a practicable philosophy. If we wished to civilise Africa, said Mr. Emery, we should not set up a temple in the desert of Sahara, but work in gradually from the edges of the continent.—Miss SAXELBY, in a short speech, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Lecturer. This resolution was briefly seconded by Miss BROWETT, and carried unanimously.

Friday, March 6th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the Chair.—Dramatic Reading of *She Stoops to Conquer*. Dramatis personæ :—

Sir Charles Marlow	Mr. C. F. CLAPHAM.
Young Marlow (his Son)	Mr. F. R. HOWARD.
Hardcastle	Mr. W. D'ESTE EMERY.
Hastings	Mr. W. R. JORDAN.
Tony Lumpkin	Mr. WALTER BROOKS.
Stingo	Mr. A. P. NEWTON.
Mrs. Hardcastle	Miss KEEP.
Miss Hardcastle	Miss F. EHRHARDT.
Miss Neville	Miss HAINES.

This is the first time, we believe, for many years that the Union has attempted Dramatic Reading. Upon the whole, we think, we can heartily congratulate the Committee on the success of their experiment, and should strongly advise them to keep this item upon the programme for future years. Goldsmith's comedy trespasses but very little, and *Les Trois Unités*, and much of the success of the evening was no doubt due to the adaptability of *She Stoops to Conquer* for dramatic reading. The pages of the *Magazine* have now for many years been dedicated to the praises of Mr. F. R. Howard. We believe him to be a very capable actor, much above the ordinary amateur level. We can only the more regret that his precise and deliberate method, effective on many occasions, was so manifestly ill suited to the utterances of Young Marlow. Mr. Howard was most uncomfortably serious. What a difference it would have been had a kinder fate allotted him the part of Hardcastle, or anything but the "agreeable Rattle." Mr. Emery, without entirely grasping the capabilities of Hardcastle, read the part with much intelligence, and showed an evident appreciation of Goldsmith's humour. His peculiar *staccato* utterance, albeit at times very amusing, is a distinct drawback to the delineation of an old gentleman of the Georgian Comedy. Mr. W. R. Jordan, who read the part of Hastings at a few minutes' notice, and of whom, under the circumstances, it was least to be expected, made many excellent points. Mr. Walter Brooks was about as excellent an amateur Tony Lumpkin as we could hope for. The honours of the evening undoubtedly fell to him. The celebrated "Three Pigeons" scene, of course, had to be cut beyond all recognition, but in the scene with Mrs. Hardcastle, after

the loss of the jewels, he fairly "hit" his audience. Mr. A. P. Newton read Stingo and divers other smaller parts very creditably. We believe him to possess a good vein of low comedy humour. Mr. C. F. Clapham was not good as Sir Charles Marlow. We would remind him that Classical Comedies are not open to burlesque, even in a Dramatic Reading. Miss Keep was a very good Mrs. Hardcastle, and in Miss Florence Ehrhardt the Union have evidently secured a young actress of no mean merit. We also welcome Miss Haines, who made a very charming and effective Miss Neville.—Dr. MARSHALL proposed a vote of thanks. This resolution was seconded by Miss PAGE, and carried with acclamation.

THE POESY CLUB.

Tuesday, March 10th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—Reading of Buckingham's "Rehearsal."—We owe to the Poesy Club several of our most cherished social and intellectual institutions. As not the least of these ranks the annual reading of a Play given by the members of the Club. This reading is always looked forward to throughout the College with a considerable amount of pleasurable expectation and excitement: which expectation is, we know, never doomed to disappointment when aroused by the prospect of something special at the Poesy Club. Nor was the Reading which took place on this occasion any exception to the rest. Taking the unpleasant weather into consideration in judging the attendance, it was manifest that a keen interest had been aroused in the production of Buckingham's "Rehearsal," the play chosen for this Session's reading.

The meeting, which took place in the Mathematical Lecture Theatre, was opened by a speech from the President, in which he gave a short account of the circumstances which led to the production of the "Rehearsal." These circumstances may be briefly stated as follows:—

After the Restoration of King Charles the Second, and the consequent revival of the theatres, there somewhat suddenly sprung into fashion a new style called the "grand-heroic," whose chief characteristic was an utter and ridiculous exaggeration of every phase of human passion and feeling they purported to depict. In them the virtuous proclaimed their virtues with no uncertain voice, the brave bawled their defiance to all comers, the vicious showed their bent by so interlarding their remarks that oaths outnumbered the other words in them. The language of love was inflated and false-toned. Far-fetched similes were scattered broadcast. The very names allotted to the characters evidenced the straining after bombast.

Of this new style of play D'Avenant, a London manager, was the introducer, and Dryden the most successful author. The style took with a public taste vitiated by the follies and extravagances indulged in during the violent reaction from Puritan control.

To show the public how ridiculous and harmful to dramatic art this style of play was, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, wrote the "Rehearsal." He was, it would seem, a man peculiarly suited for the task he set himself, for of him a contemporary writes—"His particular talent consisted in turning into ridicule whatever was ridiculous in other people."

The argument of the "Rehearsal" (plot it has none) is this: A country gentleman, Frank Smith by name, has come up to town to see and hear for himself the strange doings and sayings whereof vague rumours have

reached him in the provinces. He falls in with a town acquaintance, Mr. Johnson, who hearing his design, himself despising the new mode, introduces him to Mr. Bayes, a dramatic author, by whom he is taken to see the rehearsal of his new play. During the rehearsals, which he superintends, Bayes points out to the two friends the parts he especially fancies, and meets their criticisms with plausible apologies and explanations. The play to be rehearsed is based upon certain events in the history of the Two Kings of Brentford. Far be it from us to unfold the mysteries of this most marvellous production. "The subject is too great for prose." It may be briefly stated that it consists of a series of merciless parodies of the words and style of contemporary plays. Villiers, disliking the lack of adequate plot in the dramas of his time, here presents us with a play of whose plot it is said:

"That circumstance our poet, Bayes, forgot."

Disliking the too free use of rhymed verse, he shows its folly by its liberal use. Objecting to bombast, his puppets rant and roar till the ears be a-weary. Ridiculing far-fetched simile, no simile is too far fetched for introduction.

In the character of Bayes, Villiers intended to caricature Dryden himself, and to that end John Lacy, by whom the part was first played, was carefully dressed and taught to walk and talk like Dryden.

It is not yet too late for our dramatists to learn from an old play. Even in these days there are authors who, if they spoke what was in their minds, would be compelled to exclaim with Bayes, "What a devil is the plot good for, but to bring in fine things?" and in whom the thirst for "new conceits" leads to ridiculous results.

It is evident that a play written in 1671, avowedly as a burlesque on contemporary authors, presents especial difficulties in the proper presentation of its humour to an audience born some two hundred years later. The broad touches we can appreciate; the fine touches, the subtler parodies, only a minute acquaintance with the literature of Dryden's time would enable us to perceive. It is, therefore, very much to their credit that the corps of readers the Poesy Club mustered for its performance succeeded so admirably in interesting a large audience of whom such minute knowledge could not be presumed. Dr. W. R. JORDAN, as *Bayes*, surpassed even what had been expected of him. Careful preparation, perfect command of tone, facial expression and gesture, all combined to make the part stand out in the relief the author intended. We are glad this was so, for we are so disposed henceforth to think of Bayes and Dr. Jordan as one as to be in no way desirous of having to adversely criticise one who so severely says of critics that they "will find fault, and censure things that, egad, I'm sure they are not able to do themselves." The parts of the two friends *Smith* and *Johnson* were read respectively by Mr. Jenkyn-Brown and Mr. Kineton Parkes. The former did not strike us as especially happy in his conception of the country gentleman. We may not unreasonably suppose that though Mr. Smith had been prejudiced against the new style of play by the remarks of Johnson, his unfamiliarity with the subject, due to his retirement in the country, would have prevented him from too early display of that aggressive spirit which characterised his remarks as rendered by Mr. Jenkyn-Brown. Thus, on Johnson offering to introduce Bayes to him, Smith says, "Nay, prithee, let him alone," Mr. Jenkyn-Brown gave us the impression of

mentally adding "and be hanged to him." We take the remark as expressing a desire not to disturb so great a man as, being a provincial, he conceives a celebrated London author to be. Then, when at the rehearsal, puzzlement and wonder at strange things are evidently the *motif* of his remarks, and it is not till near the end of the play, when he perceives the hollow pretence of Bayes, that he would indulge in that tone of covert sneer which Mr. Jenkyn-Brown made him use from the very first. It is with Mr. Jenkyn-Brown's conception of his part we disagree: granting his premises, his rendering was very praiseworthy.

Mr. Kineton Parkes's careful study of his part was evidenced in the fine rendering to which he treated his audience. The grave rebukes of a man whose calm judgment in matters literary had been unaffected by the dictates of fashion and his contempt of current follies were admirably represented. A little more lightness introduced here and there would perhaps have better indicated that Johnson was as keenly alive to the ridiculousness of the things he condemned as to the grave errors dramatists were committing.

Of the characters in the mock tragedy we have not space to fully discuss the merits. As the two Kings of Brentford smelling at one rose, Messrs. P. E. Martineau and B. Marks, especially the former, scored a success which even the great talent of the Usurpers (Messrs. W. A. Brockington and J. W. Austin) could not deprive them of, successful as they themselves were. As *Prince Prettyman*, Mr. Rose was as resolved as could be wished, while Mr. A. A. Brockington (*Prince Volscius*) fell in love with commendable celerity. *Thunder* (Mr. Newton) and *Lightning* (Miss Nowers) showed themselves capable of receiving instruction in a way that would delight any stage manager, and in short, all round everyone worked hard, and truly deserved the thanks of the audience who had passed an evening which was at once instructive and amusing and all that, egad.

GERMAN SOCIETY.

On the *19th of February* the German Society held its first meeting this term. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent listening to the reminiscences of German school-life, related by some of the members. Although no one had met with any hair-breadth escapes, and no very remarkable incidents had occurred, still the accounts were interesting and amusing, and much appreciated by the small but attentive audience. Dr. Fiedler, in his usual energetic style, tried to get up a discussion between each paper, but as none of the audience had come prepared to speak, the discussion fell to Dr. Fiedler to sustain alone. But he was quite equal to the occasion, and pointed out the principal facts and points which had struck him in each paper, praising the good points, and mildly objecting to anything that seemed like an aspersion on his beloved "Vaterland"! Miss Brooks, Mrs. Howell, and Miss Marris, and Messrs. Clapham and More were the entertainers of the evening. A vote of thanks was passed and the meeting was concluded.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Biological Union. — *Monday, February 9th.* — Fifteen members present.—The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.—Mr. J. C. Griffiths was then called upon to read his paper on "Corals and Coral Reefs." He described the structure of a coral, and exhibited specimens illustrating the different methods of branching, as seen

in this group of animals. The rest of his paper was devoted to the consideration of the theories which have been propounded to explain the formation of Coral Reefs and Islands. (1) Darwin's theory, known as the Theory of Subsidence, explains their formation as follows :—Coral will only grow where the sea bottom is not more than twenty to thirty fathoms from the surface. In order, therefore, to get a reef like the great barrier reef of Australia, it is necessary to assume that the sea bottom has been gradually subsiding, and that the coral, has, in its growth upwards, kept pace with this subsidence. (2) Later views explain their formation, not on the theory of subsidence, but by supposing that the coral, growing and extending radially on a submerged plateau, has had large pieces torn off from the sides by the waves, which pieces, accumulating on the sea bottom, have at length attained such a height as is requisite for the growth of coral, and that the radially extending coral has then commenced to grow on this pile of *débris*.—The paper was discussed by Professor BRIDGE, who also moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffiths; Mr. MENZIES, who seconded the vote; Professor HILLHOUSE, and Professor ALLEN.—The vote was carried, and terminated the proceedings.

Monday, March 2nd.—Present, fifteen. Professor HILLHOUSE in the Chair.—The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed, and Mr. J. E. Hooson was elected a member of the Society.—Mr. H. J. EDWARDS then gave his paper on "Plant Strategy." He dealt at length with the Sundew (*Drosera*) and Venus's Fly-trap (*Dionaea*), and mentioned other contrivances, such as the formation of glutinous zones on stems to prevent ants and other insects from obtaining the nectar. The case of *Lactuca* was cited. In this plant harmful insects are prevented from obtaining the nectar by the exudation of a sticky material from cells whose thin walls are perforated by the terminal claws of the insect's legs. Also, the seed of the Castor-oil plant resembles a beetle; this seed is swallowed by insect-eating birds, but is not digested; the heat of the animal's stomach only sufficing to start germination. —Mr. HAINES moved and Miss STERN seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Edwards for his paper. The vote was carried.—Professor HILLHOUSE exhibited a specimen of *Humboldtia*, with an explanatory note—viz., the internodes of this plant are in most cases not more than, say, one-eighth of an inch in diameter. Some internodes, however, will be seen which have a greater diameter. These, on examination, will be found to be hollow (the other internodes are solid), and to be perforated at one point. These internodes, in fact, serve as homes for a species of ant which is protective to the plant, for should any leaf-gnawing insect ascend the stem to begin its depredations, the vibrations which it causes warn the ants, which come out and wage successful war on the would-be destroyer.—The paper was discussed by Mr. HAINES, Professor HILLHOUSE, Mr. GRIFFITHS, and Mr. MYERS-WARD.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—*Thursday, February 19th.* Present, seventeen members. Dr. TILDEN in the chair.—Mr. SMYTH read a paper on "Artists-Colours," in which he described the composition of many mineral colours and the methods of making some of them (vermilion, ultramarine, &c.) artificially. —Mr. SMYTH illustrated his remarks by showing a collection of the materials for colours, and by preparing a few of them himself.—Dr. TILDEN opened a discussion on the change in the constitution of a coloured substance which might account for a difference in its colour.—Dr. MARSHALL and Mr. MILLAR continued the discussion, and at its close Mr. Smyth was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting paper.

Thursday, March 5th.—Present, seventeen members. Dr. TILDEN in the chair.—Messrs. Hooson and Wood were elected members.—Mr. FENBY then read a paper on "Fulminates." After giving a brief account of the preparation and characteristic properties of the fulminates, which were shown by a few experiments, Mr. Fenby proceeded to give a short account of the formulæ which have been proposed by different chemists to represent the constitution of these compounds. The formulæ of Berzelius, of Laurent, and Gerhardt, and of Kekulé were discussed, and reasons for abandoning the latter, which hitherto has been generally adopted, were given. These are based on the experiments of Steiner, of Carstanjen, and of Ehrenberg, by which it was shown that hydroxylamine is formed by the action of hydrochloric acid on the fulminates, which must therefore contain the *hydroximido* group (N.OH). The formulæ proposed by Steiner and by Dr. Divers, based on the results of their researches, were then explained, special attention being given to the experimental results of Dr. Divers and Mr. Kawabeita. The explanation of the formula recently brought forward by Dr. Armstrong, deduced from a consideration of the formation of the fulminates as due to the action of nitric and not of nitrous acid on alcohol, which is strongly supported by the experiments of Dr. Divers on the formation of silver fulminate, concluded the paper.—Dr. MARSHALL opened a discussion, commenting upon Dr. Armstrong's formula.—Mr. BECK and Mr. EDWARDS also spoke, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Fenby.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on *Wednesday, February 5th.* Dr. POYNTING in the chair.—The SECRETARY read the annual report and balance-sheet for 1890. The report showed that during the past year four meetings had been held, at which papers were read and experiments exhibited, and the Committee expressed a wish that such exhibitions would become a more prominent feature of the meetings. The balance-sheet showed a balance in hand of £1 3s. 11d. The following elections then took place:—Secretaries, Messrs. Fridlander and D. P. Newton; Treasurer, Mr. Punnett; Committee, Misses Saxelby and Stern, and Messrs. Fenby, Buckley, Edwards, Harrison, Hooson, and Jackson.—Professor ALLEN was then called upon to deliver an address to the Society on "Physics in its Applications to Biology." He remarked, in opening, that he was in his province in speaking on this subject, as his own special science, Physiology, treated of the applications of physical to natural science. He divided his subject under several heads, and pointed out in what way examples of their applications could be discovered in plant and animal life. In exhibiting a most interesting model of the heart's action as a pump, Dr. Allen gave an exhaustive account of the valves and muscular walls of the veins and arteries, with their mode of action. He also exhibited an apparatus illustrating the construction of the eye, and concluded by saying that probably all the phenomena of life are owing finally to chemical action, but that there are some things in natural science which are impossible to explain in the present undeveloped state of physical science. A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Allen brought the meeting to a close.

THE CYCLIST CLUB.

A run to Halesowen and Hunnington took place on Founder's Day, in the morning. The weather had been so spring-like for more than a month that it was felt some attempt ought to be made to get up a run. It is to be regretted

that more did not attend it, for it was a lovely day, one of those one thinks of fondly now the frost and snow have returned. Starting from the Fountain at half-past ten, we had a splendid spin to Halesowen. Then began the long and gentle rise to Hunnington, shortly after passing which we missed our way, and nearly reached Bromsgrove instead of Northfield. A light lunch gave us renewed vigour, and we reached home again about two o'clock. The roads were much better than we had expected, except on the downhill parts, where, by some fatality, we always found repairs were either going on or had just been completed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNION.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Dear Madam,—I notice with regret that on the programme of the Union for the coming term there is no notice of a debate. May I ask what is the cause of this omission? That a debate is more interesting to members of the Union than an ordinary paper may be easily gathered from the unusually large attendance of the evening of November 28th last. As an educative agent it is also of far higher value than a paper is. Papers participate to a great extent in the nature of lectures, and there is always a danger that those who are continually listening to their superiors—as students must in the nature of things be constantly doing—may fall into the habit of drinking in knowledge without much troubling themselves as to what they do with it afterwards, and of never bringing the faculties of judgment, taste, comparison, to bear on the material accumulated—a danger, in other words, of becoming *well instructed* rather than *well educated* men and women. If the Union could see its way to introducing a greater number of debates, I believe it would, to a great extent abrogate this danger, and would supply a much-felt want by giving to its members opportunities for the exercise of faculties which at present too often lie dormant.

I am aware that the difficulty of finding speakers is a real one, and may possibly have been the reason of the present omission. This difficulty, I believe, springs from two causes, both of them remediable. The first is that the debates are held so seldom that unfledged speakers have no opportunity of trying their wings; the second, that the criticisms on those who do speak are of such a terribly unmerciful character. This is doubtless intended to have the effect of raising the standard of the speeches, but the desired end is hardly likely to be attained in this manner, as many who might speak well are unwilling to make an effort which they feel will be either "damned with faint praise" or openly abused. If whoever undertakes the difficult task of criticising the speeches would make a practice of commenting on and praising all that is well done, and of silently passing over—except perhaps in some very extreme case—all that is unworthy of favourable notice, many more members would take part in the debates than are willing to do so at present. Surely it cannot be impossible to find a sufficient number of speakers in such a large Society as the Union, when another College Society not a fifth of its size is able to get up a successful debate every week. I refer, of course, to the Cercle des Débats, and I believe its success may be attributed to the frequency of its meeting, and still more to the kindly and tactful way in which the speeches of the members are criticised.

It is unnecessary to point out that however interesting debates held in a foreign language may be, they can never take the place of those held by the Union, which draws its members from every department of the College. —I am, madam, yours faithfully,

A WELL-WISHER OF THE UNION.

THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine*.

Madam,—As a spectator who thoroughly enjoyed the performance of *The Serf* on January 21st, I should like to be allowed to make a few comments on the critique which appeared in your last issue. In reading that critique I was much exercised in my mind by the following sentence:—"It struck us from the first that the action of the *Dramatic* Committee in choosing a *drama* for representation was singularly unfortunate." My first thought was that this strange contradiction in terms must be due to a printer's error, for what in the name of fortune was the Dramatic Committee to select for representation if not a drama? But the next paragraph, in which *comedies* are extolled as being easier for the actors than *dramas*, showed me that the error, if error there were, could not be laid to the charge of the printer. Obviously your critic, with that fine scorn of tradition and bold defiance of the dictionary which is characteristic of youth, has narrowed in a most arbitrary and astonishing manner the meaning of the word *drama*, which from time immemorial has embraced comedy and tragedy and everything else of the nature of stage representations. All *dramas*—by which term your critic distinguishes all plays of a solemn and ponderous character like *The Serf*—have this objection: we are told, in common, that they require very superior acting indeed to make them successful. But is this an objection in the present instance? Surely, even the recreations of a learned College like ours should serve an educational purpose, and the element of difficulty is one rather to be sought than avoided. Personally, I think the choice of *The Serf* not more ambitious than was that of *As You Like It* or *Twelfth Night*, and the result was at least as satisfactory as your critic practically admits at the end of his article, when he says, "as a whole we think the performance of *The Serf* may be regarded as fully sustaining," etc. But your critic is nothing if not contradictory.

In one place he hints darkly at failure so profound as must be left to "our readers to imagine," and maintains that "not one of the chief characters in the play was filled by an actor who could be said to be suited for it;" in another he speaks of Miss Lloyd-Owen's "natural fitness" for the part of Madame de Mauleon, and bestows such encomia on Mr. A. Berlyn in the character of Count Fedor Karateff, Mr. W. Brooks in that of Mistigris, and Mr. F. R. Howard in that of Khor, that these gentlemen may certainly be pardoned if they conclude that, after all and in spite of everything, they were "not unequal to the tasks allotted to them." "All's well that ends well," however, and it is satisfactory to find that, "in conclusion," your critic pronounces the performance of *The Serf* to have been everything which he has previously said it was not.—I am, yours truly,

CLAIRE E. HOUGHTON.

March 3rd, 1891.

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THE

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BIRMINGHAM

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS

MAY, 1891.

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THE QUEEN'S AND MASON COLLEGE.

Reports have lately appeared in the local daily papers of certain meetings of the Council and the Governors of Queen's College, at which has been discussed a proposed scheme to transfer the Medical Department of Queen's College to Mason College. No student of the Mason Science College who takes any interest in the corporate welfare of the College, can have failed to feel considerable interest in the plans thus partially disclosed; and even those students whose entire absorption in their particular classes and studies for the time being blinds them to the fact that there are general College interests, may perhaps have felt the security of their isolation threatened. Perchance some lady-students may be dreading an irruption of a horde of "Medicals"; noisy, lawless, and reeking of tobacco-smoke, or worse still "parts." It is the duty of the *Magazine* equally to afford information and to allay vague and groundless fears.

The scheme in outline is simplicity itself, the proposal being to close the Medical Faculty of Queen's College and to transfer it to Mason College: the furniture and fittings of the Medical Theatres, Laboratories, Class Rooms, Dissecting Rooms, and Museums, together with the collections contained in the latter, being at the same time transferred to the Medical Faculty of the newly to be constituted College. The details of the scheme are, of course, much more complex, but in no way traverse the above general statement, that is to say, there will be nothing of the Medical Faculty left at the Queen's College, nor will the Medical Department of Mason College be in any way connected with or dependent on Queen's College.

The steps that have been already taken to carry out this proposal, and the present position of affairs, may be briefly summarised as follows:—On February 4th of this year, a meeting of the Council of the Queen's College was held, at which the general principles involved in the scheme of transference were approved,

and the scheme was referred to the Council and body of Trustees of Mason College, with the request that they would appoint some of their number to act with certain of the Queen's College Council as a Committee to consider details. It was an instruction to the Committee that the Professors and Lecturers in either College who were connected with Medical Education should be consulted and asked to express an opinion as to the scheme. This Joint-Committee, having consulted the teachers and further revised the scheme, reported to the Queen's College Council on March 12th, and their report was approved and adopted. On the 19th March, at a meeting of the Governors of Queen's College, the scheme was approved, and the Council authorised to carry it into effect. The scheme being then officially forwarded to Mason College (where its details had been thoroughly thrashed out), was formally adopted, and the College Solicitors were instructed to confer with the Queen's College Solicitors as to the best means of carrying the scheme into effect. Instructions to Counsel have already been prepared and sent, and Counsel will draft a scheme which, when amended and adopted by the two Councils, will be laid before the Attorney General in the Chancery Division, and, it is hoped, be passed without opposition.

So the matter stands at present, and it thus appears probable that after certain necessary legal processes, Mason College will be enriched by the acquisition of a flourishing Medical Faculty. This, however, cannot be at once. The processes of the law are slow and deliberate, and even were this otherwise, it is obvious that Mason College is not in a condition to receive to-morrow 200 medical students within its walls. It is obliged by the scheme to provide such new buildings as will, with any now existent, available and suitable, suffice for the purpose of a Medical School. The College, as now standing, being by no means more than adequate to the requirements of the present students, it would appear that extensive additions and alterations will be requisite. An Act of Parliament, too, will have to be obtained before that portion of the scheme which relates to the name of the Institution and the nature of its government can come into effect. For various reasons, it is advisable for the Mason College to defer the obtaining a private Act of Parliament (which is desired for incorporation and for other purposes) until the amalgamation has been fully carried out and the Faculty of Medicine incorporated with the rest of the College. A temporary arrangement will be made for the management of the affairs of the College until the Act is obtained.

We have referred to the *name* of the enlarged College. It is laid down in the scheme that the new College shall be called "The Queen's and Mason College." Whether it is from legal requirements or sentimental considerations that the name of "Queen's" is to be preserved we do not know, but the suggested title strikes us as particularly awkward and cacophonous. Much as past students of Queen's College owe to that institution, we believe that, in the interests of brevity and euphony, they would have endured the disappearance of the name. Masonians are not called on to consider whether they could have suffered the extinction of their name, it being obviously impossible to apply the name "Queen's" to the new College. However, the matter is a small one. What's in a name? Rather too much in this case, we would answer.

We have not yet spoken of the causes which have led to the proposal and adoption of this scheme of amalgamation. During the past six years the Medical School of Queen's College has very largely increased in number, the number of students having nearly doubled during that period. To provide adequate accommodation for this increased number of students, the Council have from time to time made such structural alterations in the buildings as appeared to them, after very careful consideration, possible. In spite, however, of these alterations the accommodation provided has become increasingly inadequate and unsatisfactory. The dissecting room, though in its present form it may appear somewhat palatial to those old students who remember the exiguous apartment of ten years ago, is far too small for the present class of 130 students using it. Moreover, the various departments are so scattered and isolated about the building as to cause great inconvenience. In short, the fact became obvious that the only way to properly equip the now flourishing Medical Faculty, and to enable it to take its due position among similar institutions, was to pull down and rebuild the premises it now occupies. But for such an undertaking a large amount of capital would have to be raised, and the most careful consideration failed to indicate a method by which this could be done. In this crisis the proposal of amalgamation with Mason College seemed to be the only way out of the difficulty. For some years, as is well known, a portion of the medical education has been undertaken by the Mason College. This arrangement has, on the whole, worked well, and has been appreciated by the students, but has not been without its drawbacks. That the instruction in a Medical School should be carried out under the

direction of two distinct and independent Councils is not an ideal arrangement. The new code of regulations introduced by the General Medical Council increases the difficulty of the position. For under its provisions, with the existing arrangement between the Colleges, students during their first year would never have to enter the precincts of the Medical School except for the purpose of paying fees, and during their second and third years would be attending one half their classes outside its walls. So slender an acquaintance with their own students the Council of Queen's College deemed an impracticable state of things. They therefore had to face the prospect of again taking up the teaching of Botany, Chemistry, Physics, and Physiology, and providing laboratories and appliances in each case, as well as salaries for teachers. The expenditure necessary for this was altogether beyond the finances of Queen's College. Moreover, the teaching of the above-named subjects in the two institutions would involve a waste of power at the bare idea of which one shudders. So, again, amalgamation with Mason College seemed to be the course indicated.

Mason College, on the other hand, was, no doubt, averse to losing the medical students from the departments named above, and in no way disinclined to extend its activities by the acquisition of a vigorous medical department.

We ourselves regard the scheme as an admirable one. The Medical School is by it set free from the incubus of the Theological Department, which, like an Old Man of the Sea, has hung round its neck for years, impeding all its movements and wasting its energy. Those who are acquainted with the history of the foundation and development of Queen's College know with what special care its pious founder, Sands Cox, and its liberal benefactor, the Rev. Dr. Warneford, strove to build it on exclusively Church of England lines. Some of the letters of the latter worthy are still extant, and express sentiments of which we can only say that, "Transported with the sight, we're lost in wonder and amaze." Up to quite recently every teacher in the College had to be a member of the Church of England. Obviously, a Medical School under such restrictions was not likely to flourish. Its development, indeed, has been retarded at every step by the no doubt well-meant provisions of its pious founders. Now, freed from all this, taking with it to its new home nothing that is not strictly medical, we may expect it to flourish to an extent of which the possiblities have been indicated by its efforts even under its present shackles. The

Medical Faculty of Queen's and Mason's College should rank as, perhaps, the highest outside the metropolis.

For the Theological Department left behind at Queen's College and its probable fate we have little interest and less sympathy. It will have the building left for its sole occupation, and it remains to be seen whether it can expand to fill it. To the Medical Department it has been little better than a curse, and we have never been able to gather that it has been of much advantage to its own students. If it silently decay and die, and the chapel which formerly medical students were forced to attend is left a solitary ruin, we shall be unable to drop a tear over its demise. If it gather fresh vitality from the contemplated disruption we shall hear of its growth and flourishing without giving way to delirious joy.

The effect on the social life of the College of the absorption of the Medical Students will be much less marked on account of the arrangement, now no longer new, which has already made men, during their first and second years, Mason College students. We may expect, however, that as they will now belong entirely to the new College, and as its institutions will be theirs equally with students of the other departments, their sympathies and interests will be with the various College Clubs even more than has hitherto been the case. Medical students, since the epoch referred to, have taken no unimportant share in the development of the social life of the College, and it is likely that their continuance in the College walls for the full term of their studentship will increase their efforts in this direction.

Old-fashioned opinions die hard, and many people cling to the opinions of their forefathers. To those who regard the Medical Student as a riotous and unaccountable monster, and, may be, are considering whether, in view of his advent, it were not well to remove their names from the College books, we may afford a little information and a good deal of relief. It will probably not be necessary for the mild Masonian to fight his way into College every morning through a crowd of Medicals engaged in taking the odds; nor will it be his too frequent duty to attend inquests on professors slain by blood-thirsty students; probably smoking concerts will not be held in the Library at mid-day; nor will a bar be established on the front steps; a lady may, by good fortune, manage to walk from one end of the College to the other without hearing the language of the towpath; small portions of the College will remain not altogether impregnated with tobacco smoke; it will still be possible

to walk abroad without stumbling over a romer or falling into a calvarium: in fact the building will not become entirely a Golgotha, nor its name a bye word among the nations. No; the medical student will have an opportunity of demonstrating that the reports of his evil deeds "have been much exaggerated."

Mason College during its ten years of existence has developed greatly: Queen's College for a much longer period has struggled nobly against cramping restrictions and displayed a wonderful vitality. Queen's and Mason's College should be a stronger and more capable body than either, and we look forward to its establishment and wish it every success.

THE JUBILEE OF PUNCH.

On the 17th of July in the present year the prince among English comic papers celebrates the Jubilee of its existence. It is now exactly fifty years since the jovial face of Mr. Punch first beamed forth on the old world of London from the pages of the new *Charivari*. For half-a-hundred years the little hunchbacked sage has given to a delighted world week by week his keen observation and harmless satire of men and things. What a reign of wit! Surely, Mr. Punch is made of sterner stuff than that which provokes but the passing approbation of the moment, and serves for no higher purpose. Yes! there is a meaning in his mirth, and the imprint of serious purpose on a face wrinkled and furrowed with a laugh half a century long. The story of his life, in fact, is inseparable from the story of social and political England during the last five decades.

On the battlefield of to-day—the public press—there is no sharper weapon than the pen of satire. For Shakespeare's *Boyet* is not the only man among us, who in his time has been "stabbed with laughter." And true satire is not cynicism, for the cynic makes all men his butts, and all men his enemies. And true satire is not libel. "There is not in the world a greater error," says Pope, "than that which fools are so apt to fall into, and knaves with good reason to encourage, the mistaking a Satirist for a Libeller, whereas to a true Satirist nothing is so odious as a Libeller, for the same reason as to a man truly virtuous nothing is so hateful as a hypocrite."

It was Douglas Jerrold who first determined for Punch the right use of satire, and the laughing philosopher has always

engaged, after his own manner, in what is for the real morality of life. For Punch's mission has been to laugh and make merry, not at the works of the wise, be he on what side he will, but only at the vices and freaks of the vain and foolish. "We shall always play Punch," said Mark Lemon in the first number, "for we consider it best to be merry and wise

> 'And laugh at all things, for we wish to know
> What after all are all things but a show.'"—*Byron.*

To be merry and wise! What better motto for a paper of the pretensions of the new *London Charivari?*

It has been said that the satirist has all the world for his listeners, for there is a subtle instinct in every man to appreciate the foibles of his neighbour. Not often, however, has Punch abused this great power, which an unthinking public bestows on him for its own destruction. His kindly banter has on a few occasions been ill timed, and sometimes misdirected, but on the whole we may safely say that our modern Democritus has seldom been far wrong in his estimate either of party or of partizan. "He has a natural antipathy," said Thackeray, "to pomp and swagger and fierce demeanour. It is not against courage and honour he wars."

But how dull and stupid the life of the society jester without some target for the shafts of his facile wit! And so it is with Punch, the world's jester. Mr. "Jeames," the fashionable intelligence columns of the morning papers, Herr Wagner, John Bright, Bradshaw's Guide, the diminutive Lord Russell, and Mrs. Bloomer, have from time to time been made the pet objects of his satire. Twice indeed during his history—but this was in very early times, when he was not more than five or six years old—Master Punch exceeded the bounds of satiric propriety and nearly lost his temper; so much so indeed that Mr. Silk Buckingham in his reply even went so far as to accuse him of an attempt at blackmail. But Mr. Alfred Bunn—the "Poet" Bunn—gave such a counter to the vanity of the All Right in that memorable little pamphlet *A Word with Punch* that Mr. Punch in riper years never showed himself anything but a sensible man of the world, and never again was so indiscreet as to "run amuck and tilt at all he met."

BART PIERS.

MAUD.

I.

Gentle Maud, a blushing rose in bloom,
Woven in the peerless loom,
Whence flow the frail perfections
Of the lily and the daisy, queen of flowers.
Thou art not of southern bowers,
That exhale in sweet infections,
In idle impotence,
Enthralling every sense.
Thou art not of these.

II.

Gentle Maud, thy voice is like the wind,
That woos the twilight midst the falling leaves,
Softest to soothe the heart that grieves;
So swift thy sympathy to find
A balm for wounded souls.
As the silver stream that rolls
Its flood serene and deep towards the ocean,
Scarce ruffled by the motion
Of the bustling breezes; so thy being pure
Breathes peaceful calm amidst the eddying whirl.

III.

Yet not alone thy spirit tuned to sadness,
My gentle Maud; the sunny light of gladness
Finds its answer in thy smile.
What a sympathy is thine!
Not of this world—all divine;
With a boundless love and deep
To weep with them that weep,
Nor frown on them that pipe and dance the while.

ALFRED ALLEN.

THE LIBRARY AND ITS READERS.

Of all the institutions of this College none is of more importance than the Library. Laboratories, Class Rooms—even learned Professors, only benefit a certain number of students, while the Library exists for all, the *alma nutrix* of students, young and old. Recognising the enormous importance of the Library, we devoted to it an article in our very first number,

though at that time, some eight years ago, it was yet in its infancy, and only contained 13,000 books.

At the present time the number of books amounts to 21,000, of which we owe at least 12,000 to the generosity of the late Dr. Heslop, and no one connected with the College, whether Professor or Student can be sufficiently grateful to him, who, while his catholicity of taste and liberality of mind prevented the enrichment of one department at the expense of another, yet laid, and laid firmly, the foundation of a great library, which should fill the various needs of all sorts and conditions of students.

Since the lamented death of Dr. Heslop, funds have not been forthcoming in the same profusion, and in consequence the growth of the Library has been far slower than in its early years. Still, works of scholarship, of science, of pure literature, are being constantly added, though the exigencies of London University examinations have to some extent, we fear, hindered the growth of some sections.

It seems a pity that the valuable series of old French texts should have been discontinued, and that the German library should remain a mere nucleus; but works necessary for examination must be purchased, and the College, as its name implies, is bound first to consider the needs of the science students.

As a place of study the Library is far from perfect, and what the reader will do when the fusion of Queen's with Mason's takes place it is impossible to say. No doubt by that time the Council will have hit upon some method of enlarging their borders, and with their care and the aid of the suggestions rising from Mr. Cope's ten years' experience, books and students alike will have free scope.

If any alteration should take place—and it would seem that the enormous influx of Students we may expect after next session imperatively demands one—Mr. Cope himself, the ever courteous and friendly, will benefit in no small degree by the change. Not only will the books be better classified and more easily accessible, but the Librarian's throne will be in some more central spot, whence he can easily control the murmurs that will arise from too spirited or argumentative youth.

Since our former article was penned, the average age of the readers in the Library has steadily decreased, and the greater youthfulness of the students is shown by nothing more than their increased tendency to conversation.

It were much to be wished that a place could be found where some interchange of ideas over knotty points and abstruse problems could take place.

The lady students have here a great advantage over—if we may say so—their brothers in arms. They have—or at least we believe they have, for Heaven forbid that we should pry into the College Zenana—a room set apart for that free interchange of ideas which some satirists tell us is an absolute necessity with the sex, while the unhappy men must pine in silence and bear the weariness of soul caused by heaping many books.

The absence of any place for the discussion of books and comparison of ideas does not excuse the occasional inattention of some thoughtless youths to the notices so prominent in the windows, nor is there any reason why the Talkative or Conversational Reader should abound.

This species is unhappily too common, and, we fear, the individuals thereof are not only among the younger students. We have other eccentric varieties of readers, as have all Libraries, but they are of no inconvenience to the community at large, save for an occasional student who in his eagerness for knowledge bathes, or rather wallows, in whole shelf-loads of books, and who, rising with much difficulty to the surface, leaves behind him a mighty monument of his labours—fruitful labours, we trust—whose Cyclopean mass might well daunt the boldest of Librarians. A student, *soi-disant*, may be sometimes seen looking for an amusing book, but a reader of this class must be very easily pleased if he can satisfy his cravings for fun from the Mason College shelves.

We are happily spared, as far as our experience has gone, readers of the oblivious or Dominie Sampson order—the greatest plague a Library can possess. Imagination quails before the idea of the Library still further congested by folio-bearing forms hovering on ladders and attacking upper shelves like vampires, or with its gangways—none too wide—hopelessly blocked by inanimate bodies, the mere casual presentment of men wandering widely to the uttermost parts of the earth. No! Even if the time for a lecture pass by unheeded, all readers are at least possessed of an inward monitor who, by hinting "Dinner," may be trusted to rouse effectually the most arrant bookworms among us. The Library is the brain of the College, and while, as with other brains, its stores of knowledge increase with increasing age, it

has over the brains of those that study therein the same advantage of longevity that the College has over the individual. It provides for the future as well as for the present; and it would be no more than right, and would help to carry out the collegiate idea of combined effort, if all students, throughout their generations, were to contribute a book or two, according to their means, to the common stock. Then in the future, and may it not be far distant, when the College boasts the possession of 100,000 books, when there is ample shelf-room for all these, when floor-space and table-space are alike sufficient for 500 readers, all students will remember that their fellows have helped to build up this great Library, and will remember, too, we trust with fervent gratitude, its small beginnings and the debt they owe to Dr. Heslop.

WORLD-MUSIC.

Notes that springing grasses bring,
Cheery pipings grief-defying,
Strains from woodlands blossoming.

Rich in music summer's hours,
Borne on Zephyrs ever flying,
Choruses from wildring bowers.

Hear you not the spirit singing
Nature's World-Law still revealing
Mystic, round the senses clinging?

Hear the mellow rhythmic cadence
Made by Being's endless wheeling;
Hear, and know all Nature's essence.

Hear the message borne along,
On thro' ancient æons stealing,
"God is music, God is Song."

FRANK HILL.

COLLEGE NOTES.

It will be interesting to our Readers to know that the Principal, instructed by the Council, recently organised a deputation of Members of Parliament and other persons interested in the University Colleges to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and lay before him the claims of these Colleges to increased support from Government. Ultimately seven Colleges were represented at the meeting. There were present—Mr. J. Chamberlain, M.P.; Mr. George Dixion, M.P.; Sir John Lub-

bock, M.P.; Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P.; Mr. C. J. Mundella, M.P.; Dr. Percival, the Principals of the Colleges, and others. This College was represented by the Principal and Dr. Tilden. Their reception by Mr. Goschen was so favourable that it is hoped a further grant of Government money will be made at an early date.

It is our painful duty to announce that in consequence of the misconduct of some of the students in the Men's Common Room, in destroying furniture, fittings, &c., the Principal has ordered the room to be closed until further notice. As soon as the students can show that the room is a real convenience and can give guarantees of good conduct, doubtless the room will be opened again.

THE UNION.

The Editor regrets that the report of the Musical Evening held on March 20th must be postponed until the next issue, as the Reporter to whom the matter was entrusted was taken ill at the last moment, when it was too late for anyone else to prepare the account.

Friday, April 7th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—To our surprise, and somewhat, if we must confess it, to our chagrin—for we had not prophesied great things of this meeting—the *Impromptu Speaking* drew a good house. But for the first twenty minutes the oppressive calm of much dulness seems to have thrown a pall over the assembly, penetrated only once by the voice of Mr. IRVINE. The two leading subjects indeed were uninviting.—Miss BOURLAY was called upon to protest against the conduct of the back row at the last ordinary meeting, and, of course, uttered the usual platitudes anent the behaviour—or, as Miss Bourlay would have it, misbehaviour—of this much-abused section of our community. Then it was that Mr. Irvine, in that mock heroic style, which we have all learned to love so well, threw in his lot with the back row against "a blow which was aimed at the very foundation of the Union." This painful subject was now fortunately shelved, to the intense relief of all parties; and Miss BROWETT made a vain attempt to open a discussion on the desirability of providing dinners at the College.

The programme was saved from a total collapse by the advent at this point of the proceedings of Mr. BRANSON, B.A., who, in a very able speech, dealt with the enormities of the *Mason College Magazine*. Mr. BRANSON made a gallant stand for the freedom of our College press, in the matter of criticism, and he was seconded by Miss EDWARDS, B.A., who objected strongly to the charges of partiality and undue severity which have during the last few months been levelled at the heads of our Editorial Board, by unthinking persons, who have entertained the idea that the *Magazine*, because, forsooth, it is produced within the walls of the College, is to be turned into an organ of mutual admiration, for the indiscriminate puffing of everything which is presented before a wondering world in the various College Societies.—Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON, B.A., followed, in the same

strain, commenting especially on the undesirability of persons who, justly or unjustly, considered themselves or their friends hard hit in the critiques writing back to the *Magazine*, not because they have anything to submit of an explanatory nature, but for the sole purpose of ridiculing the critic.—Miss BOURLAY though that a critic should be a teacher and a guide, and never find fault where he could not point to a remedy.—This novel doctrine was rebutted by Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON, who drew a striking comparison between the old "vegetating" criticism, which was read only by the subject of the notice, and the new system, introduced by the present Editorial Board, of judicious discrimination.—Mr. EMERY also objected to the office of the critic being regarded as embracing the duties of a practical reformer.—To Mr. A. R. H. INGRAM, B.Sc., it was an occasion of wrath that the *Magazine* did not open its pages more frequently to scientific articles.—Mr. J. W. AUSTIN, in a speech which was not without some humour, described the severe shock to his feelings caused by an adverse criticism on the occasion of his first appearance before the Union.—This topic had now been under discussion for over three-quarters of an hour. The speeches were altogether excellent, and of a most interesting character.

Miss JENKYN-BROWN then spoke on "Absolute Monarchy," but she having failed to touch any responsive chord in the rest of the assembly, Mr. B. MARKS was requested to maintain the intellectual equality of the sexes. We are very happy to welcome this latter gentleman. If we could see more first year's men treading in his footprints we should be inclined to take a much brighter view of the future of the Mason College Union. Both Mr. BRANSON and Mr. EMERY combated the statements of Mr. Marks, and Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON gave a short sketch of the *Princess*, showing how our Laureate dealt with the higher education of women. Miss JENKYN-BROWN cited the case of the Royal Holloway College, at which Mr. CHAIRMAN wondered much, for he thought that not even a lady would apologise for the existence of this institution.

Mr. INGRAM concluded the evening's entertainment by a short speech on the morality of England. On the whole we think we can congratulate the officers on the success of this item, but we do not think this success was of a sufficiently encouraging character to warrant the including of *Impromptu Speaking* again in the programme of the Union. The debate on the *Magazine* undoubtedly saved the evening, and the Committee may not in the future be fortunate enough to secure a subject provocative of so much excellent *impromptu* discussion.

May 1st, 1891.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the chair.—The only agenda of business were the receiving of balance-sheet and report of the Dramatic Sub-Committee, and the election of a new committee for the ensuing year. The report, after expressing the loss occasioned by the death of Mr. Charles Greene, referred to the small proportion of members of the Union who attended the performance of *The Serf*, and explained a monetary deficiency by the necessary increase in the scenery and property demanded by the play.—On the motion of Miss KEEP, seconded by Mr. BERLYN, the report was accepted. The balance-sheet, read by the Honorary Treasurer, Professor HILLOUSE, was also accepted, subject to the usual audit.—Mr. HAINES proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Sub-Committee, which

was seconded by Mr. L. S. MARKS, and carried with acclamation. Mr. PARROTT, whose name was coupled with the resolution, briefly acknowledged the compliment.—The meeting then proceeded to the election of the following committee: Misses JOHNSON, LLOYD-OWEN, and F. EHRHARDT; Professor HILLHOUSE, Dr. W. R. JORDAN, Messrs. HOWARD and PARROTT.

By the thoughtfulness of the Secretaries, and the kindness of responsive and indefatigable members, the Chairman was now enabled to call upon Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON, B.A., to propose a resolution: "That the working day of this country be restricted to eight hours." After much clever but obscure reference to the condition of our remote ancestors in the Garden of Eden, the speaker invited his hearers to a short dissertation on the history of the labour movement, tracing the effectual changes worked by Parliament since the time of Henry VI. He denied that the opinion of the Trades Union meeting held at Dundee was a representative one, as it excluded a large number of societies, and advocated a system of reform by Government legislation. He endeavoured at some length to prove that combination on the part of workers was not incompatible with such legislative reform.

Mr. H. J. EDWARDS replied in the negative. Any attempt to rebut the arguments of the honourable opener would, he said, be merely a vain endeavour to grapple with shadows. He strongly objected to the abstract formulation of a bill without considering every trade. This was impossible, and the speaker would therefore prefer to leave Capital and Labour to adjust themselves to one another. Any interference on the part of Government he considered as a slur on the independençe of British workmen. This, too, was the opinion of the Trades Council, who desired that nothing should be effected unless by voluntary effort. Experience has shown that a legal maximum, if fixed by Parliament, would eventually develop into a legal minimum, and such a legal minimum would be an undesirable and preposterous infliction. We must congratulate Mr. EDWARDS upon a very successful first appearance before the Union.

Mr. J. W. AUSTIN was not quite so happy as usual in seconding the motion. He based his support of an uniform eight-hours day chiefly upon the ground, that every attempt to equalise the conditions of life in different stations is a means of progress towards a higher state. He thought, too, that the movement would result beneficially for the masters as well as for the employed, and quoted a recent successful experiment at Mulhaüsen.

Mr. P. E. MARTINEAU supported Mr. Edwards. In the course of a rather rambling disquisition he treated the House to a little social chat upon topics of autobiographical and general interest, mentioning among other things, more or less remotely connected with the subject, the claims of farm-labourers and domestics to Parliamentary legislation. He denied that the benefits of workers, from the time of Henry VI. downwards, had been conferred by Parliament, and concluded by desiring a little private conversation on the matter with his friend the opener.—Mr. A. BERLYN thought the whole question turned upon the taxation of imports.—Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON objected to the general statements of the mover of the resolution being designated shadows. He considered that domestics, proved to be either the most degenerate or the scarcest section of the community, were not worthy of legislation, and that farm-labourers

called for less consideration than the ordinary factory-hands.—Mr. J. G. BAILEY was strongly in favour of grinding everything possible out of that common herd called British Public.—Mr. W. A. BROCKINGTON shortly replied, and the motion, when put to the House, was lost by a small majority.

THE POESY CLUB.

Tuesday, April 28th.—Professor ARBER in the chair.—A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent in the society of Lord Tennyson. The two disciples of the Laureate were Messrs. A. A. BROCKINGTON and FRANK HILL, and they treated their subject each from his own point of view. More fervid admirers of Tennyson's genius it would be hard to imagine. "Red-hot" was the verdict of one critic not without judgment in these matters, and, indeed we have seldom heard anything more "red-hot" in the whole of our experience. Mr. BROCKINGTON confessed at the outset that he found it difficult to find fault with a true friend, and "discrimination in such a case was not to be looked for." It may be true that discrimination is what the cold world most admires, but we must confess that this unalloyed eulogy was quite refreshing after the half-hearted, tentative, shrinking appreciation we have often listened to, both at the Union and Poesy Club. Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON had chosen "Lord Tennyson as an Artist," and carefully traced the gradual ripening of the author of *Claribel*, with thoughts running on "lucky rhymes" and "mellow metres," not yet venturing to make his muse the medium for serious thought, into the real poet who could electrify his readers with what Kingsley called, "the noblest Christian poem which England has produced for two centuries," *In Memoriam* — the verbal analogue of Beethoven's "Funeral March on the Death of a Hero." *Claribel* and *Lilian* could not appeal, indeed, to the intellectual appreciation, but they could intoxicate the feeling with gentle cadences of absorbing luxury; and even in these early years Tennyson had almost perfect command of his materials, and had found opportunities of impressing a distinctive mark upon all his work. It would be easy to emphasise from the range of Tennyson's works his choice of purely English words, and the unconscious suiting of sound to sense from the very appropriateness of his diction. Happy, however, as Tennyson is in his choice of words, he is not more fortunate than in his choice of metres. The appreciation of Tennyson's metrical system served, to Edgar Allen Poe's thinking, as a test of anyone's ideal sense. Side by side with the new fantastic verse tried in early years came imitation of the old ballad, and very striking is the difference between Tennyson the mystic, metaphysical, weird, and fascinating, as he appears in *Oriana*, and Tennyson in later years writing *The Revenge*, when the strength and seriousness of the man had modified the enthusiasm of the youth. Tennyson is as distinctive, as characteristic, and as modern in his use of Blank Verse as he is in the use of rhymed metres. His Blank Verse, indeed, is not the organ-music of Milton, nor the dramatic measure of Shakespeare. Of the difference every reader is sensible, but it is hard to express it in so many words. As a painter of character even this devoted disciple was bound to confess that Tennyson was not so uniformly successful, at any rate not in groups of characters.

Mr. FRANK HILL followed with the "Philosophy of Tennyson." High in the heaven of the intellect, the Poet, tinged with the glory of that mysterious knowledge which is an elemental attribute of the Master

Mind of all, seeing the mysteries of life with a clearer vision and a less earth-clouded understanding that we who sit beneath him, the Poet more than all may lay claim to the title Philosopher, Thinker. Harmony and imagination were but the colouring of the leaves; no measured flow of words would make a man a poet, unless at the root of his writing is established the earnest purpose, the thoughtful care for the good of humanity, the aim to solve the complicated problem of existence, and to bring the mind of man to a right view of life. And such a poet, said Mr. Hill, was Alfred Tennyson. In the forefront of his teaching we may place the fixed belief in the strong efficacy of Law and Order; the workings of nature are the workings of a cosmic Mind. And herein lies the essential difference between Tennyson and Browning. The lesson of nature to Browning is not the realisation of an universal Omnipotent Law, but the representation of Emotion, the streaming out of the universal overflowing principle of Love, the Divine Effluence. From Tennyson's reliance on Law and Order springs up, logically enough, in his mind a hatred of Passion—Passion, whether Spiritual or Earthly—recognising in Passion the breaking up of Law and Order. Harold is his hero, a man who before all things is a man; he does the good he can; counts it mortal sin to lie; he can be troubled by no supernatural visions and appearances. All these axioms of Tennyson's philosophy were to be found exemplified in the *Idylls of the King*, and Mr. Hill now proceeded to deal at some length with the plan, plot, and purpose of this great epic poem. No theme runs so completely through the whole of Tennyson's work as does that of the progress of men towards the complete perfection of the race, and the regeneration of society; and here again all things are united by Law. To him it is the noblest of all themes, the theme on which he most loves to dwell. All things ruled over by the wise ordinance of the Supreme Being are gradually moving onward to a new state of society, slowly it is true, yet none the less surely. *Locksley Hall* betrays a glimpse of this new time, when the "war drum" shall "throb no longer." This great progress, however, is only made according to a fixed law; there is no revolt from one extreme to the other.

We feel that we have done but very ill justice to these two really excellent papers. There was, perhaps, one blemish—but only one—which marred the general excellence of things, and this was present to a greater or less extent in both—a rather too great abundance of quotation.

THE CYCLIST CLUB.

On Saturday, April 18th, the Club commenced the season by a round-about run to Nether Whitacre. First we went to Stonebridge by the Coventry Road, which we found in splendid condition. A mile or so further on we turned sharp round Packington Park, and sped past the picturesque ruins of Maxstoke Priory, followed soon after by the imposing front of Maxstoke Castle. Then after crossing innumerable railway bridges, and getting lost withal, we reached the Swan, hungry and late. Almost immediately after we had ordered tea, another throng of hungry cyclists appeared, and were told they would have to wait three-quarters of an hour before there would be room for them. We trembled to think what a narrow escape we had had. Another five minutes later, and we should

have been in the position of the hungry-looking men who were trying to while away their long waiting in playing at bowls in a very half-hearted sort of way. Outside the inn, on a stove in the open air, the good landlady was preparing ham and eggs for the million. Enquiry elicited the interesting fact that in the season two or three hams were often cut up on a Saturday afternoon in reinvigorating exhausted cyclists. The walking party did not walk the eleven miles, recommended (through a mistake) on the notice-board, but contented itself with walking to Water Orton, and describing circles about the Swan in its endeavour to find it. One of them, however, did the eleven miles, and was apparently no worse for it. after a very pleasant tea we had a jolly spin home by Curdworth—that is, those of us who were not too much exhausted by the run before tea. On the following Saturday we went to Rednall, *via* Northfield and Hopwood Bridge. The roads were in good condition, but the country seemed very backward. The hedges were very little further advanced than they were a month ago. We found a large walking party awaiting us at Rednall, and uniting our forces we sallied up the hill to Mrs. Downward's. Here a surprise awaited us. Instead of having to crowd into the only sitting-room the cottage possesses, we found our tea set in a new wooden erection, something between a hen-coop and a mission chapel. Needless to say, the good lady was as flurried as ever in her attempts to minister to our wants. After tea, part of us went up to the monument to get what view was possible on such a dull day, while another part went on a pilgrimage to the Retreat, where Cardinal Newman is buried. Then we finished the day by a rapid spin along the Bristol Road, where we passed the walking party, and got home long before dark.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held on *March 11th*, Mr. SKIRROW in the chair; seventeen present. After the time-honoured ceremony of reading, confirming, and signing the "minutes of the previous meeting" was diposed of, Mr. BUCKLEY was good enough to exhibit an improved form of mercury still, a Beard's regulator for gas bottles, and an electric bell adapted for use as an automatic fire alarm. The working of the two latter pieces of apparatus was shown, probably much to the discomfiture of the innocent bell, which hitherto only accustomed to the gentle persuasion of one Sedanche, was mercilessly treated by the presence of two accumulator bells. The mercury still was a modification of one which appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine* for 1888, vol. 25, but, alas! for the prospect of its being of general practical utility, Mr. Buckley was heard to mutter somewhat significantly that "the invoice had not come in yet."

After the conclusion of Mr. Buckley's experiments, Mr. A. R. H. INGRAM gave a highly interesting and instructive paper on "Electrolysis." In introduction, he pointed out that the past few years have been a time of co-ordination in physical science, but that they have done little towards connecting the chemical and physical worlds, and that though we have some some reason for thinking there is a connection between chemical affinity and other manifestations of energy, we have ampler reasons for stating our ignorance thereof. The earlier parts of Mr. Ingram's paper dealt briefly with the various theories of electrolysis advanced from the time of Carlisle and Nicholson (1800) up to our own day, the latter part being devoted to the new Chemical Theory of

Armstrong. There are two chief phenomena presented during electrolysis—firstly, the transfer of electricity through the substance; secondly, the chemical decomposition of the substance, and it is the explanation of the former of these at which Armstrong's theory specially aims.

One would naturally expect that, say in the case of the electrolysis of diluted sulphuric acid, the definite compounds of these two substances (viz., water and sulphuric acid) known to exist would somehow influence the conductivity of the solution, and that this is so has been shown by experiment. It thus is evident that the questions of solution and electrolytic conduction are closely related, and that, therefore, in treating of the latter the former must not be left out of consideration. Accordingly, Mr. Ingram, before entering directly into Armstrong's theory, digressed on the subject of solution and the recent researches of Mendeleef upon it. From these it appears that definite hydrates, having the composition $H_2SO_4 \cdot H_2O$, $H_2SO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$, $H_2SO_4 \cdot 6H_2O$, and $H_2SO_4 \cdot 150H_2O$, do exist in different percentage mixtures of sulphuric acid and water, and the effect of these on the conductivity of the solution has been clearly shown by Crompton.

Mendeleef's method of investigation, described by Mr. Ingram, is extremely beautiful. The changes in volume corresponding to changes of percentage composition of mixtures of alcohol and water were determined, and found to be represented by a parabola of the second order. The differential co-efficients of the ordinates of points on the curve were taken, their extremities furnishing a new curve containing several angular points, which Mendeleef regarded as indicative of definite compounds of alcohol and water. Their existence has been shown, and two of them have been isolated. Crompton, extending this method to dilute sulphuric acid, obtained curves showing the relationship between electrical conductivity and percentage composition, but which on first differentiation still gave "continuous" curves; differentiating again, however, he succeeded in getting an angular curve, from which it was inferred that the point of maximum conductivity is due to the influence of the compounds $H_2SO_46H_2O$ and $H_2SO_424H_2O$. It is from consideration of these facts that Armstrong's Theory of Conductivity arose, the primary question which it attempts to answer being "Why is the conductivity of water brought about by the addition of sulphuric acid?" He supposes that conduction is enabled to go on by means of chemical changes due to the mutual action of the hydrates above-mentioned, and points out that solutions of maximum conductivity are nearly those in whose formation maximum heat is developed, and, therefore, in which maximum chemical action takes place; the inference being that the "chemical influence" of one set of molecules of the solution upon another set is greatest at the point of greatest conductivity. The latter is accordingly looked upon by Armstrong as due to a tug of war between hostile armies of molecules, and he denies that electrical conductivity is due to dissociation of atoms, but rather to the aggregation of them.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ingram was proposed by Mr. HOOSONN, and seconded by Mr. MARKS; Mr. INGRAM'S answer to a question raised by the latter bringing the proceedings to a close.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

Thursday, March 19th.—Dr. NICOL in the Chair. Mr. LIVERSEEGE read a paper on "The Examination of a Set of Weights." The weights were found to be fairly correct, but Mr. Liverseege pointed out a number

of small inaccuracies and the way in which he had discovered them. Dr. NICOL congratulated Mr. Liverseege on having completed a difficult and tedious operation. He, too, had adjusted a set of weights, and could say that it was neither easy to perform the task nor yet to give an intelligible explanation of the *modus operandi*. Mr. Liverseege had succeeded, and therefore deserved the best thanks of the meeting. Mr. LIVERSEEGE having responded to the vote of thanks accorded to him, Mr. WILSON gave an account of the various methods for the Volumetric Estimation of Zinc, both in simple solutions of its salts and in the presence of other metals, notably of iron. Mr. Wilson illustrated each method by using it before his audience for the determination of the zinc in a solution supplied to him. In these experiments he was assisted by Mr. MILLAR, who also gave his experience in the use of a Uranium salt as indicator of the complete precipitation of the Zinc by Ferrocyanide of Potassium. Dr. NICOL and Mr. LIVERSEEGE made a few remarks upon the processes described. After the usual votes of thanks Dr. TILDEN said that the Society would be pleased to hear of a distinction gained by one of its members. The Senate had just decided to recommend Mr. Sudborough to the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition for a Scholarship of £150 a year, for two years, to be employed in Chemical Research. This announcement having been received with applause, the proceedings terminated.

GERMAN SOCIETY.

The walls of the Physics Laboratory, accustomed as they generally are to the solemn sight of researches into the behaviour of matter under the direction of Dr. Poynting, must have been pleasantly surprised on Thursday evening, March 18th, for to them—as to the brilliant and distinguished audience there assembled—a bounteous feast of music and high-class recitations was vouchsafed. The first item was a few pleasing duetts of Grieg, skilfully performed by Dr. Allen and his sister on the piano. Then came a recitation by Mr. B. Marks of a Breitmann ballad, called "Villst du learn de Deutsch sprache?" which was a poem in a mixture of German and English, giving advice as to the best method of learning German. This brought down the House, and after the excitement had abated, Dr. Fiedler made a bright little speech, in which he said that in these ballads was contained the germ of the universal language of the future, for a German could understand these ballads, and also an Englishman; so, lo! and behold, here was a language common to the English and German. Spread the application of this system, and a language like Volapük is at once seen to be useless; in fact, it is found to be a transparent device for obtaining money. Of course he could not wish to see the Breitmannish dialect adopted, as his occupation would be gone, but he felt sure that the present system could only last a few years longer, so he intended to make hay while the sun shone. He then called upon Miss Ehrhardt, who sang "Es hat nicht sollen sein," that touching song out of the *Trompeter v. Säkkingen*, with much feeling. The *encore* was, however, postponed, so that all the music should not come together. The German Society is doing a great work—and ought to be complimented for it—in bringing out, under its sheltering wing, reciters and musicians who are a real gain to the College at large. On this memorable evening there were

two first appearances: Miss Kohn, a lady who recites Goethe's legend of the "Hufeisen" well, though her delivery was a little affected by nervousness; and Mr. Moore, whose flute solo, Mendelssohn's "Frühlingslied," was very enjoyable. After this, Miss Fleetwood sang in a charming manner a German volkslied, "Mädele ruck, ruck," accompanying herself on the guitar. The entire absence of effort is a very pleasing feature in Miss Fleetwood's singing, and later on she was heard with renewed applause in two songs, "Ziehe, Liebe," and "Aufden Almen." Miss Pearson, in addition to performing the arduous duties of accompanist in a most efficient manner, played Kjerulf's "Springtany." After this, Misses Barham, MacCarthy, and Keep, and Messrs. B. Moore and Clapham read the medium scene out of Moser's famous play, the *Bibliothekar* (the German original of the *Private Secretary*). It somewhat mystified the audience, as some had not read the play, and others had forgotten it. Then Miss Ehrhardt's *encore*, "Du bist mein All" (Theo Bradsky), was enjoyed, and after it, Mr. Gesundheit recited Schiller's "Handschub" in a forcible manner, that brought the painting of the incident vividly before one's mind. Mendelssohn's "Wiegenlied," played by Mr. Moore, formed a soothing finish to a most pleasing evening, and after Mr. Rainsford had proposed, and Mr. E. Kannreuther seconded, a vote of thanks to the various performers, the assembly departed. Will all concerned kindly note that owing to unforseen circumstances, the proposed performance of *opf Zund Schwert* has been postponed till the autumn?

CHEMICAL EXCURSION TO ROUND OAK.

On Wednesday, March 18th, at the invitation of Dr. Tilden, a large number of students belonging to the Chemical Department, together with Dr. Tilden and Dr. Marshall, made an excursion to Round Oak for the purpose of visiting the Earl of Dudley's Iron and Steel Works. Leaving Snow Hill at 10.15 they reached Round Oak about 11 o'clock, and were met there by those of the party who came from Stourbridge and neighbourhood. The works lie close to the station and cover a surface of several acres. The Manager received them, and first conducted them to the chain making-forges, where the process was seen in operation. He then exhibited the furnaces for the generation of the producer gas, and showed the whole process of steel-making on the Siemens-Martin method. The visitors were most interested in tracing the manufacture of steel girders for a large bridge, from start to finish. The machine for making steel rods, the great testing machine, which, while being used, unfortunately broke; the steel pickling vats, and the packing house, in which steel strips are packed in barrels, were then visited, and the party then returned to the large offices of the works, where a cold lunch awaited them. This over, they were informed that the blast-furnaces could not be tapped before four o'clock, so the proposition to descend a coal mine was accepted by the majority, although Dr. Tilden and a few others were compelled to return to Birmingham. So headed by Dr. Marshall they proceeded to the pit. After a few minutes' walk an engine was found awaiting them, which they were directed to mount. This was rather a novel mode of travelling for the ladies, but they accepted the situation with equanimity, and boldly took their seat on the coals. Arriving at the pit, they were first shown over the engine-house, and then on a rather rickety cage descended to the depths beneath. Two hours were taken up in

groping about holding candles stuck in small lumps of clay. On reaching the bank great amusement was caused at seeing each other's faces, which were decidedly black. But a bucket of water soon removed the worst of the dirt, and the party returned to the works to witness the magnificent sight of the tapping of a blast-furnace. Then boarding the train for home they arrived in Birmingham about five o'clock very tired and shamefully dirty, but quite convinced that a hearty vote of thanks ought to be accorded to Dr. Tilden for giving them the opportunity of such an instructive and enjoyable excursion.

BOTANICAL EXCURSION TO BURTON.

Many of those students who have studied botany under the able guidance of Professor Hillhouse, had a most enjoyable excursion to Burton on the last Saturday of the Spring term.

Meeting at New Street Station, they left Birmingham soon after nine o'clock, not without many misgivings as to the weather, and arrived at Burton after about an hour's journey.

At Burton the party, which numbered sixteen, was met by Mr. Sterne, so well-known in former days as a student, and now one of the brewers of Messrs. Bass and Co., who kindly gave up the whole of his morning to showing them over the extensive premises of that firm. Altogether there are four distinct breweries, a large steam cooperage, and a private railway which communicates with each of the principal main lines. First of all the various processes in the making of a beer barrel were investigated from the steaming of the oak planks before shaping to the stamping of the firm's name on the top. Most of these processes are carried on in an immense hall, furnished with cutting tools of every description, all worked by steam. Here the staves were cut into the right length and hollowed out so as to form a circle when put together; there shorter lengths were cut and put together to form the ends. On one side the little plugs and bungs for the bunghole were made; on the other side the different parts were put together, and the barrel assumed its final condition.

From the Barrel Factory the party went to the store rooms, two storeys high. In the upper storey sacks upon sacks of different kinds of hops were stored in large carefully darkened rooms, while below on the ground floor and in an underground region were numberless rows of full barrels. From these store rooms the party went on to the platform of the private railway, where they found an engine and open truck awaiting them. Some in the truck, some of the more adventurous on the engine itself, they then went for a tour round and through the town. Burton is a perfect network of railways, nearly all the streets being crossed somewhere by the lines.

On the way the engine in question visited all the main lines in turn, the Midland, the North-Western, and the Great Western.

After calling on some more large stores in which full barrels were kept, the visitors proceeded to the office, where a light lunch of bread and cheese, and of course some of the Company's own ale, awaited them.

Then they entered a neighbouring building in which the actual malting was carried on. First they ascended right to the top of the building, where were sacks of barley.

Descending again, they passed the places where the malting processes were carried on, but as it was Saturday afternoon work had ceased. After a passing call at the engine-house, which was remarkable for its cleanliness, and in which they were invited to taste the famous Burton water, the visitors crossed over to another building, and mounting several flights of stairs, found themselves in a large airy room, the floor of which was occupied by a shallow kind of reservoir in which the beer was spread to cool. From this they descended to the next floor, where the liquid was poured into large vats, and the yeast added, and the whole left to ferment.

Professor HILLHOUSE most successfully performed the time-honoured experiment of collecting a hatful of the carbon dioxide gas and pouring it over a lighted match to extinguish it. After this, the visitors looked in at the place where the beer was put into the barrels, and then hurried away to catch the train back to Birmingham, having spent a most enjoyable morning.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The *Institute Magazine* contains the most extraordinary effusion it has ever been our lot to review. It is entitled "Notes on Nature," and is well worth careful perusal as an example of what should be avoided by students anxious to improve their English composition. Botanists, too, will be interested to learn that "though the leaves (in Autumn) have lost their soft and silky nature, virtue has not all gone out of them." The writer is great on Autumn foliage. In another place occurs the following: "The snow sleighs with their bells are tinkling out in soft tintinabulations through the aisles and lanes of yellow beech trees." This is a most extrordinary sentence, and it requires much careful thought to fully appreciate its manifold beauties. Are beech trees yellow when the snow is on the ground? Is it the sleigh or the bells that are tinkling out? What is an aisle of trees, and wherein does it differ from a lane? What are soft tintinabulations, and wherein do they differ from hard ones? The whole statement is fraught with mystery.

Laurel Leaves has an article on "Butterflies and Moths," which contains several references to Tchneumon flies. Our old friend the Ichneumon is probably what is meant, but we are at a loss to know whether the writer has invented a new way of spelling it, and how it is to be pronounced by anyone who is not a Russian.

The *Marlburian* is one of the most excellent of all the School and College Magazines we have to review. We should like to call the special attention of Masonians to the use that is made of the correspondence column in the Magazine. The present issue contains no less than eleven short letters containing complaints and suggestions. This is just the sort of thing we want in our own publication.

From the *Central Literary Magazine* it appears that the C. L. A. has, like ourselves, suffered from the prevailing epidemic of Socialism. There appears also to have been an outbreak of poetry amongst its members for the present issue contains three poems, all of very moderate value. We wonder that none of the articles in this Magazine are signed. Are the writers too modest?

The King Edward's School Chronicle contains an excellent article entitled "Aristotle's Redivivus," wherein the intemperance of those is well-

shown who, "despising the attractions of the salutary wine, yet turn with much avidity to water impregnated with the leaves of a certain plant (Πηκοῦ τι)." Read and blush, ye Pekoupotœ! "The Death of the Theban Brothers" is blank verse; in fact its blankness is remarkable. We do not like the expression—"grovels then on each in turn"—as said of a distracted mother embracing her dying sons; nor can we in any way see how the line—

. . . . . "A deed
. . . . Of horrór: sheer through her severed throat she drove"—

is to be adapted to what appears to be the average metre of the piece. "Through her severed throat she drove" we presume is an adaptation from the Greek, but regret that we cannot allow the piece the poetic licence which alone could excuse this construction. However, the writer appears to have had for his object the performance of extraordinary literary contortions, which in two instances he seems to have executed with such success as to frighten himself, for he quotes in justification Sir P. Sidney and Hamlet. We are reminded, thereby, of the proverb, *Qui s'excuse, s'accuse.* The writer of "Neige" we should judge to be very young. The adjuration—

"Aux sphères d 'où vous sortez
Vite, vite remportez
Votre dentelle glacée—"

is, in sentiment at least, what one would expect from a petulant child of four, whom the moon has disappointed by refusing to leave the heavens. We hesitate to accept "faim" and "fin" as a true rhyme. On the whole this number is distinctly above the average.

Our Magazine bristles with morals and geography. Several poems appear in this number, of which "Philomela," an adaptation from Ovid, is decidedly the best. In January 1st, 1891, we admire the lines:—

"No guilt is on that noble brow,
Half hid by hanging hair."

"Hanging hair" is so suggestive, and the alternative "curling" or "golden" so trite. Further on we have mention of

"The tossing crowd,
Who stand with bated breath."

A somewhat curious poetical touch.

The *University College of Wales Magazine* publishes some interesting Notes on American Colleges, which might well have been dealt with at greater length. We cannot, however, sympathise with the patriotism which could lead the writer to institute comparisons between Wales and the United States in any single particular. "Looking Backward" would appear to be an autobiography. The introductory remarks are of such an extraordinary character that the writer finds it necessary to offer a half apology for them. He observes:—"As to the past, all its images are so merged in the present, that we doubt whether it ever existed; the present itself only appears more real because it seems to excite more vivid impressions than those of memory. We need not be philosophers in order to find our own life an enigma to us: We need not be poets in order to feel a certain unreality pervading what we see and feel." From a subsequent sentence we learn that he considers this an "original prologue."

Possibly it may be; but then, not everybody cares to publish all the original vacuities he has perpetrated. Perhaps the originality of it may consist in its complete absence of bearing on the remaining part of the article which is published in this number, for this consists of reminiscences, which may possibly possess a local interest, of early college days. The rest of the number is filled by an account of the patriotic festivities of St. David's Day and by College Notes. We have also to acknowledge, with thanks, the *Clewer House School Magazine.*

An account of the Karl Dammann Presentation cannot, as requested, appear in this number, since the occurrence took place too late, but the Editor hopes to insert it in the next number.

THE KARL DAMMANN MEMORIAL PRIZE.

This prize was founded anonymously soon after the death of our late lamented German Professor, and is now to be awarded for the first time. The following are the regulations:—1. Candidates must have been students in the German Department, taking full courses of instruction and passing the terminal examinations to the satisfaction of the Professor for two complete sessions previous to the examination.—2. The examination will comprise one paper on the period of German Literature treated by the Professor in the Senior Class, and a *viva voce* examination in which the candidates will have to translate at sight from some of the authors, and answer questions relating to them.—3. The Student must write an Essay in German, upon a literary subject to be announced by the Professor at an early date in each session. N.B.—The regulation prescribing a full course cannot be made to apply to the first and second terms of the present session and the whole of the past session.

The following gentlemen have been recently elected Associates:—Messrs. W. A. Brockington, F. D. Chattaway, Oliver Jones, and Joseph Malins.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE POESY CLUB.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Dear Madam,—I think the writer of the article on the Poesy Club in the March number of the *Magazine* must be under some misapprehension as to the constitution. The Committee of the Poesy Club is elected at the annual general meeting of the members, and it is open to any member to nominate any other for election to the Committee.

It was proposed last autumn that the choice of secretaries and treasurer should be vested in the Club as a body; the proposal was, however, rejected by a large majority at an ordinary meeting, on the ground that the present arrangement had been found to work satisfactorily in practice. The Chairman at the meetings of the Club is the President, the Professor of English; the Chairman for the meetings of the Committee is, in accordance with the usual practice, appointed by the Committee itself. I am, Madam, yours truly, A. P. S.

[The writer of the article is perfectly acquainted with all the facts A. P. S. mentions; there is no discrepancy between them and the statements he has made.—Ed. *M. C. M.*]

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Vol. IX. No. 6.

THE

Mason College Magazine

BIRMINGHAM.

CONDUCTED BY THE STUDENTS.

JUNE, 1891.

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EDITORIAL.

With with the present number, Vol. IX. of the *Magazine* comes to its close, and with it the labours of the present Editorial Board practically cease. When has not that body regarded with feelings of profound relief its respite from the arduous duty of endeavouring to coax the feeble existence of its starveling charge into active life? But what Board has ever felt, as we who are now retiring feel, the mingled sensations of those who have inaugurated an era of journalism new to our College, and have not succeeded in modulating our tones to suit the ears of all our readers? When, at the beginning of the present Session, we entered upon our office, we found the *Magazine* being slowly killed by cold indifference and literary starvation. This state of things had been going on for a very considerable time, and the question of allowing the *Magazine* to drop, which had, at least once before, been seriously discussed, seemed likely to be again brought up; in which case there could hardly be a doubt as to what the issue would be. Those for whom the *Magazine* was conducted offered it neither literary nor monetary support; nay, more, derided and scoffed at it. Believing that we had discovered the root of all this evil, in that our predecessors had aimed rather at a high intellectuality in the matter which they published, than at popularising the paper, we have endeavoured sytematically to rectify this omission. In the first place, "College Notes" have dealt at some length with all news of interest to College Students; next, we have substituted for the old system of recording in minute form the proceedings of the College Societies, critical comments on the papers read, together with suggestions, when necessary; lastly, we have procured as large a number as possible of articles having a local interest. By thus appealing to the personal interests of our fellow-students, we hoped to enlist their sympathy and help in conducting the *Magazine*, and thus to make it a

useful and interesting College Newspaper in the proper sense of the word.

To some extent we have succeeded in our aims. That more interest is taken in the paper must be apparent to all: that this interest has more frequently than of yore taken the form of contributions, augurs well for succeeding volumes; that such contributions were not always of a nature complimentary to the Board may have resulted in some cases from faults of our own, but the reason for most of them must be sought in the existence among us of certain of that large class who could only experience comfort in a society for mutual admiration, from which candour and criticism are strictly excluded. We would point out to those who have found it necessary to give us expositions of their views on the manner in which the *Magazine* should be conducted, that their efforts would have been crowned with more success had their letters been in some cases at least accompanied by articles. We must again remind our readers that the Editorial Board is really intended to be a committee, which shall edit the *Magazine* from material supplied by the general body of the students; if such material is not forthcoming, the members of the Board are, by stress of circumstances, compelled to supply the deficiency. The tendency therefore is, or rather—for we hope that the present improvement will be permanent—has been, for a small body of students to be compelled to supply the whole College with literary food, while their fellows regard their manful struggles to maintain that supply with chilling indifference or actual disparagement. We have endeavoured to indicate the objects at which we have aimed and the difficulties which we have experienced in their achievement. We can now only commit the life of the *Magazine* to its readers.

"SOCIETY" SATIRE.

Some forty years have now passed since Douglas Jerrold and Thackeray wrote their social surface satire week by week in the pages of *Punch*. It is hard to believe that "Society" satire is altogether a thing of the past, and yet it has often struck me as remarkable, that the mantle of Jerrold and Thackeray should have found no resting-place, that in this series of satires on London Club and Society Life two authors should have so completely established their own peculiar style, and

their own ideal, that no one has ever attained the same style or the same ideal save themselves. But such is undoubtedly the case, and though no writer in the present age of advanced *fin de siècle*, or rather twentieth-century extravagance, would be more warmly welcomed by the English reading public than another Jerrold or another Thackeray, that merry war against "Society," which in its early days formed the backbone of *Punch* has never since reappeared in its pages, or in the pages of any English Comic.

It lasted only for ten years, and the first shot was fired in January, 1842, in the *Physiology of London Evening Parties*, by Albert Smith, who stood at the head of Mr. Punch's Social Reform Cabinet, with Jerrold and Thackeray,—satirists like Dick Steele, a century a half before, that told the town, they were a parcel of fops and fools, and made it laugh at its own follies, so that it was half-inclined to believe that they spoke truth. They were the first English Comic Journalists to show that coarseness was not necessarily attendant on a fine wit, and that deliberate libel was not satire. GILBERT À BECKETT when editor of the London *Figaro*, had also set up as a social reformer, but he was unable to distinguish between satire and personal abuse, spoke with absurd contempt of "the beastly aristocracy," with coarse familiarity of "Mother Trollope," called his correspondents rogues and fools, quarrelled with his artist, and was forced to retire in less than three years. In *Punch* à Beckett posed only as a writer of prose burlesque, and in this there were none happier; the rollicking Rabelasian humour of the *Heathen Mythology*, and *Comic Blackstone*—it is hard to believe that this tremendous legal joke was committed by one of the ablest of London police magistrates—was peculiarly fitted to the punning style, purposeless, but full of point, of him whom Mr. Edmund Yates called "the brilliant meteoric à Beckett."

But Albert Smith and Thackeray, and Jerrold perhaps more than either, had a higher sense of the responsibility of wit. Douglas Jerrold indeed, though he respected à Beckett as a man, was his firm friend for many years, and always recognised the healthy innocence of his subtle humour, had a contempt for his literary work, which he was at no pains to conceal. Writing to Charles Dickens, when the *Comic History of England* was publishing from the "Punch" office, he said:—"After all, life has something serious in it. It cannot be *all* a Comic History of Humanity. Some men would, I believe,

write the Comic Sermon on the Mount. Think of a Comic History of England! the drollery of Alfred! the fun of Sir Thomas Moore in the Tower! the farce of his daughter begging the dead head, and clasping it in her coffin in her bosom! Surely the world will be sick of this blasphemy!" There was something of Jerrold's spirit in Albert Smith, and more in Thackeray. As long as petty meanness, cant, affectation, little rottennesses existed in our social system, it was the function of satire to probe for them, to shame them away. This was the common object of all, but they set to work, each according to his own lights, and their ways were diverse. Jerrold is remarkable for those long-sustained periods of seriousness, which seem almost out of place in a comic paper, and stand out in a stronger light by contrast with the sparkle of his *bons mots*, and the drolleries of his *Caudle*. Albert Smith is full of purpose, but seldom wholly serious. Thackeray is as serious as Jerrold, and as scathing. What man was ever harder hit than George IV., that Royal Snob, the "first gentleman in Europe," arrainged before the youth and innocence of England—"out of court, out of court, fat old Florizel! Beadles turn out that bloated, pimple-faced man"? But his moments of seriousness are briefer, and perhaps more trenchant and more effective from their very brevity.

The satire in ALBERT SMITH'S *Evening Parties*, as in all his works, was directed against the middle classes in London Society, and remarkably true pictures they are of our everyday acquaintance. We are continually meeting with old friends,—the Chamberlaynes, the Mr. Ledburys, the Miss Hamiltons, and the Miss Mitchells—we have known them all for years, and greet them with a friendly nod of recognition. On July 2nd, 1842, came the *Physiology of the London Idler*, and in the following January the *Side Scenes of Society*. This, the best of his three sketches, was aimed especially at the hollow conventionalities in our social ceremonies. "The 'Spangle Lacquers,'" says Smith, "form but one specimen of a class, comprising thousands who appear to think that money alone is necessary to attain distinction in the great world, and that an almost slavish compliance with the most fiddle-faddle conventions of fashion can alone ensure to them an eligible station in society."

In *Punch's Letters to his Son*, the first regular series of his social papers, the style of DOUGLAS JERROLD was not unmixed

with a certain spirit of *badinage*, which wore off in later work; though it is perhaps in this very bantering, mock philosophy that the satire is keenest and most caustic of all. Thus in Letter IX. he writes:—"My dear boy, truth is no doubt a very beautiful object; so are diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds; but like these sparkling, precious things, it is by no means necessary to your condition of life, and if sported at all, is only to be enjoyed by way of luxury. As a man of the world, you may always speak the truth, when it is in no way to your advantage to utter the contrary." Small wonder that the last letter which this excellent parent receives *from* his son is dated the *Condemned Cell, Newgate.*

Side by side, however, with this mock philosophy, we have touches of that true philosophy, of that so-called cynical, worldly philosophy, cultivated by Thackeray, but which, to my mind, has more direct bearing upon the real interests of everyday-life in the world than the most pregnant of the bald apothegms of the tribe of Tupper. Here are the truisms of life, only satirical when the maxims of the man of the world are incompatible with the best morality. And there is yet another and quite distinct side to the writing of Douglas Jerrold—what I have ventured to call the *jocularly poetical*, as in the last letter, where, amid reflections on the immortality of the soul, he has references to "a penal settlement," a "half-way house," and a "lucky-bag;" and yet what should prove a really fine poetic imagining is not altogether spoilt, in fact it is questionable if it is not even enhanced, by being presented in this mock, half-serious manner, just as the words of the jester gain half their piquancy coming from the mouth of a fool.

In January, 1843, Jerrold began the noblest, the most artistic, in design, purpose, and workmanship, of all his writings; its position in a weekly comic was a unique one. "The Story of a Feather" is a novel without a hero, or rather it is a novel with many heroes and many heroines; it is a picture gallery of ordinary daily life. The ostrich feather, in its progress through the world, meets with all sorts and conditions of men, and each has his own little story to be told, his own particular skeleton-closet to be opened. There are scenes in the later history of the feather's journeyings where the realist would perhaps have revelled in suggestive detail. But in Jerrold we have no "Dutch painting," where he could serve his purpose with "an outline of

the faintest chalk." This is a true story, not untinged with satire; there is no railing at the world's abuses; much vivid colouring, but no loud, vulgar expression; if there is nothing extenuated, neither is there ought set down in malice.

Throughout *Vanity Fair*, *The Newcomes*, in the whole of Thackeray's novels, if there is one social abuse insisted on more than another, it is the selling of English female purity in the marriage markets of St. James's. "Rosey Mackenzie" was sold in marriage, so was "Mrs. Barnes Newcome," and the novelist takes a special delight in writing the fourth volumes of their unfortunate lives. Jerrold strikes the same note in the "Story of a Feather." "I have seen," he says, "blue eyes, pink cheeks, scarlet lips sold—ay, as you would sell a nosegay, —fathers and mothers having a bishop who shall bless the bargain."

The fame of his next work, *Punch's Complete Letter-Writer*, was altogether eclipsed by *Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures*. The humour of these thirty-six lectures was irresistible. Every henpecked husband could sympathise with poor Job, and every shrewish wife could look in the glass and behold Mrs. Caudle. The satire of *Miss Robinson Crusoe* was of the young lady of the period. Our female Robinson sets out, with all the world, to find a husband in India, being consigned for instant marriage on her arrival, is wrecked, and landed on a desert island, with "a pair of scissors, a smelling-bottle, and a box of peppermint drops." She has a female Friday of course, and a parrot, that learns one phrase—"Who giveth this woman?"

On November 8th, 1845, appeared *Jeames's Diary* from the pen of WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY, showing how "Jeames of Buckley Square" rose to wealth, power, and influence, how he became a citizen of Belgravia, and how he lived in the polite London world, cringed to by ladies of fashion and truckling little snobs of nobility, presented at Court, finding even a genealogy and a family tree to order—all keenly satirical, and betraying the most shrewd observation of the littlenesses of Vanity Fair. Thackeray in the *Diary* is bantering and flippant. A similar subject received somewhat more serious treatment in *The Snobs of England—By One of Themselves*. "He who meanly admires mean things," says Thackeray, "is a snob," and "to say of such and such a gracious sovereign that he is a snob, is but to say that his Majesty is a man." For it

is inevitable that there should be snobs in every walk of life, in a country where "Lordolatry is part of our creed, and the Peerage the Englishman's second Bible." It is our fault not that of the great, "if you *will* throw yourself under the wheels, Juggernaut will go over you, depend upon it.

Mr. Edmund Yates called Thackeray the "playfully cynical." Playful he is—at times, but a cynic never. A cynic! said Shirley Brooks.

> . . . . "Yes, if 'tis the cynic's part
> To track the serpent's trail with saddened eye,
> To mark how good and ill divide the heart,
> How lives in chequered shade and sunshine lie.
>
> "Through vanity's bright flaunting fair he walked,
> Marking the puppets dance, the jugglers play,
> Saw virtue tripping, honest effort baulked,
> And sharpened wit on roguery's downward way.
>
> "And told us what he saw, and if he smiled,
> His smile had more of sadness than of mirth,
> But more of love than either undefiled,
> Gentle, alike by accident of birth."

Thackeray was no cynic, he was only incontinently truthful "If truth is not always pleasant," he said, in the preface to *Pendennis*, "at any rate, truth is best." There is no disguising the fact: Thackeray's truth is very seldom pleasant. What one of us can really say he is not of the category of Snobs, that Thackeray has not reserved for him a front seat in the highest places of Snobdom? Is truth always best? Sheridan evidently thought not when he gave us Mrs. Candour. Thackeray said "Yes!" and so the great Apostle of Truth came to be regarded as a cynic, and the writer of the "History of Snobs" showed himself the greatest Snob of all. For the fact is, the *Snobs of England* could never have been written, but "by one of themselves." Thackeray knew it, and acknowledged it, and there is no greater snob to be met with in the whole of English literature than Mrs. Candour. Thackeray sinned—if he did sin—not in being a cynic, but in being too truthful. Society is very nice on these points. The pill of truth must be sugared well, and coated, and gilt, or it is likely to offend from very rankness.

BART PIERS.

A MATHEMATICAL MEANDERING.

It was the deep and dismal hour of two,
When all my brain with formulæ was turning,
And my last feeble taper faintly burning—
Upsprung a sudden shadow, till it grew
To $+\infty$, nor ever stayed,
Until the polar of its middle point was made.

"Why comes this base intruder here," thought I,
"Stealing its mystic bulk upon my privacy,
Disturbing this long agony of 'cram,'
The mournful presage of a near exam.—
What means it?" And I felt a strange sensation
The form did not admit of Integration;
Endless new functions must be estimated,
Before this shadow could be integrated;
New modes of torture for examination.

But yet I challenged it, and bade it tell
The secret of its birth, what hideous spell
Had worked that twisted cubic of a head,
Those parabolic arms that reached the infinite;
Sure, some dread demon of the night
Had weaved it with a cunning charm, and fed
Its frame, not on the food of man, but formulæ instead.

"My name is $\int$" quoth the ghastly spectre,
"And I am without limits and unknown,
Newton, Legrange, or Taylor has not shown,
Nor any mathematical dissector,
My fixed and possible,
To claim me for his own."

"Then give me proof of skill" I rashly said,
"O show some wonder, solve some haunting doubt,
O triumph o'er the exploits of the dead,
And prove some theory Newton ne'er worked out."
A chill came o'er me like the bleak December,
As the fiend stretched forth its parabolic member;
I summoned my philosophy Platonic
To guard me 'gainst the coming revelation,
And then this Enemy to Integration
Drew an Imaginary Tangent to a Conic!

ALFRED ALLEN.

ACTION OF HEAT ON NITROSYL CHLORIDE.

By J. J. Sudborough, B.Sc. (Lond.), A.I.C., F.C.S., and J. H. Millar.*

It is well known that nitric peroxide, N_2O_4, begins to dissociate at temperatures just above the boiling point of the liquid. When the gas is heated, dissociation into nitrogen dioxide is far advanced, according to Playfair and Wanklyn, at a temperature of 97·5°, and is complete, according to Deville and Troost, at 140° (Compt. rend., 64, 237). Richardson has studied the action of heat upon this compound at higher temperatures, and has found that at 620° nitrogen dioxide is completely dissociated into nitric oxide and oxygen (Trans. Chem. Soc., 1887, 51, 397).

We determined to examine the action of heat in like manner upon nitrosyl chloride, the only known oxychloride of nitrogen, as it seemed probable that it would dissociate into nitric oxide and chlorine more readily than nitrogen dioxide splits into nitric oxide and oxgyen.

To elucidate this point, we undertook several series of experiments, of which this paper contains a brief account.

As a means of preparing the chloride, NOCl, we invariably used nitrosyl sulphate (chamber crystals) and Sodium Chloride. That the gas evolved from this mixture on gently warming was practically pure nitrosyl chloride was proved by estimating the amount of chlorine in a given weight of the gas.

The vapour density of nitrosyl chloride at ordinary temperatures had been previously determined by Tilden (Journal Chem. Soc., 27, 632), from his results it was clearly established that the molecule of the gas at ordinary temperatures is represented by the formula NOCl, and not by any multiple of this

Density found = 32·25.

Calculated for NOCl = 32·67.

Our investigations consisted of determinations of the vapour density at temperatores ranging from 16° to 985°.

In order to fill the bulbs with the gas we used one of the two following methods—(1) Condensing the gas by placing the bulb in a freezing mixture till several cubic centimeters of the liquid were formed, and then allowing it to boil off (B.P. −8°); (2) By passing the gas through a bulb open at both ends till all the air

* Abstract of a paper read before the Chemical Society, London, on December 4th, 1890, Dr. W. J. Russell, F.R.S., in the chair.

was expelled. We usually let the gas pass through for from thirty-five to forty minutes.

Our first set of experiments was made at temperatures between 15° and 165°. In each case the gas was condensed and then allowed to boil away, a long capillary being fastened to the end of the tube. As a source of heat we used a sulphuric acid bath, and the density was calculated by estimating the amount of chlorine contained in a known volume of gas at the given temperature.

All the experiments made between this range of temperature showed that no dissociation had taken place.

Two experiments conducted in a bath of methyl salicylate vapour at a temperature of 222° also showed that no dissociation had taken place.

Four experiments were then conducted in a bath of sulphur vapour. As the vessel in which the sulphur was boiled was of small dimensions, and four large burners were used as a source of heat, the vapour became super-heated and therefore the temperature had to be calculated by means of air thermometers. The four densities obtained ranged from 32·3 to 33·1, and thus indicate that no dissociation had taken place up to this point.

Two determinations of the density were then made by means of an air bath, the temperature of which was estimated by means of air thermometers.

The results were—

Temperature 796° V. D. 31·36
„ 816° V. D. 31·00

Lastly, four determinations were made on the combustion furnace. For this purpose a piece of ordinary combustion tubing was used, the gas was liquified in it and then allowed to boil away, the tube was then thrust into the furnace, and the end afterwards sealed off. The V. D. was calculated by estimating the amount of chlorine and by measuring the capacity of the tube. The four results obtained were—

Temperature 784° V. D. 31·7
„ 928° V. D. 29·0
„ 968° V. D. 27·3
„ 985° V. D. 27·0

This indicates a dissociation of a little over 41 per cent. of the nitrosyl chloride molecules at a temperature not much below 1000°.

As we were not able to obtain higher temperatures with the apparatus at our command, and using glass tubes, we concluded our evperiments at this stage.

The following table gives a resumé of the results of our experiments :—

VAPOUR DENSITY OF NITROSYL CHLORIDE BETWEEN 15° AND 985°.

Method adopted for obtaining bulb full of Gas.	Bath.	Temperature	V. D. H = 1.	Per cent. amount of dissociation.
Passing gas for 45 minutes	Air	15°	32·57	0
Liquifying	Sulphuric acid	15°	32·50	0
,, ...	,, ...	65°	33·04	0
,, ...	,, ...	115°	32·50	0
,, ...	,, ...	165°	32·18	0
Passing gas	Methyl salicylate ...	222°	32·30	0
, ...	Sulphur vapour	693°	32·90	0
,, ...	,, ...	693°	32·31	0
Liquifying	,, ...	693°	33·24	0
,, ...	,, ...	693°	33·12	0
,, ...	Combustion furnace	784°	31·77	5·54
Passing gas	Air	796°	31·36	8·22
,, ...	Air	815°	31·00	10·64
Liquifying	Combustion furnace	928°	29·00	25·17
,, ...	,,	968°	27·30	39·19
,, ...	,,	985°	27·00	41·85

V. D. calculated for NOCl = 32·65.

V. D. calculated for complete dissociation = 21·78.

From these results it is evident that nitrosyl chloride behaves in a very different manner from nitrogen dioxide when subjected to high temperature. Thus, at 620°, a temperature at which nitrogen dioxide is completely dissociated, nitrosyl chloride shows not the least trace of dissociation; and near 1000°, only about 40 per cent. of the molecules are dissociated. This fact would seem to point to a difference in the constitution of the molecules of the chloride and the oxide of nitrosyl, as nitrogen dioxide may be called.

Nitrosyl chloride, in its reactions with water, behaves as the chloride of nitrous acid, and inasmuch as nitrous acid not only forms nitroso-compounds, but by acting on the group $= CH_2$ produces oximes, $= C : N \cdot OH$, nitrous acid would appear to have the formula $O : N \cdot OH$ and the chloride $O : N \cdot Cl$. Now NOCl is incapable of directly combining with oxygen, and the compound

NO_2Cl seems to have no existence (Williams, "Journal Chemical Society," 1886, 49, 222). Hence we must suppose that that part of the volency of nitrogen, which in NO is concerned with the linking on of another atom of oxygen to form NO_2 or N_2O_4 (according to temperature) is already occupied by chlorine in NOCl. Since nitric oxide, NO, and nitrosyl chloride, NOCl, shows no tendency to polymerise, the union which is established between NO_2 and NO_2 at temperatures below 140° is probably owing to the oxygen. We have been accustomed to regard nitric peroxide as nitroso-nitric anhydride, representing it by the formula

$$O:N\cdot O\cdot N\begin{matrix}=O\\=O\end{matrix},$$

but since the molecules of NO_2, concerned in the process of combination, are all alike, an unsymmetrical formula seems improbable. The formula O : N·O·O·N : O seems to satify the requirements of the case, as it would account for the formation of nitric, as well as of nitrous acid by the action of water,

O : N·O –	– O·N : O
H	OH

and this leads to the formula O : N·O—for the dioxide. This may, perhaps, account for the instability of this oxide at high temperatures by representing it as due to the unsaturated condition of the oxygen, while the more stable chloride may owe its greater permance at high temperatures to the fact that the chlorine is not in the same degree unsaturated.

COLLEGE NOTES.

A correspondent this month asks us if we can inform him, what steps it will be necessary to take in order to the reopening of the Men's Common Room. In our May issue we announced, on the authority of the Principal, that the Common Room would again be opened for everyday use when our students could show that it "was a real convenience, and could give guarantees of good conduct." We would therefore suggest that, at an early date in next session, a deputation of influential men wait upon the Principal, and propose to take the Common Room over once and for all into their own hands.

While upon this subject, we cannot refrain from noticing how fully all our statements anent this College institution have been substantiated. We at one time designated it a "social drain-pipe," and purblind prejudice held up its hands in pious horror at our presumption. It is surprising how slow our readers were to recognise the truth of our words, when we said that the Common Room was the dominion of the mere "fledglings and idlers," and that the influential students of the college had absolutely nothing in common with what was supposed to be the chief resort of all. And yet they might even then, without any intimate knowledge of this place—and we should hesitate to libel any of our readers by supposing that they had—they might even then have felt that there was some force in our words; if only from the loud guffaw which, at the opening ceremony of the present session, greeted Dr. Dale's innocent reference to the intellectual friendships fostered in this Social Meeting-place.

"To put your finger on the plague-spot," said Douglas Jerrold, "is to be infected with malice." Our words in these pages have been been the subject of curses—not loud, but very deep. We have answered none of the objections which the righteously indignant have brought against us. Time, we knew, would prove the truth of our statements; and time has proved them up to the very hilt. We said that it was the resort of "fledglings and idlers." The five young gentlemen who were lately rusticated for a fortnight—the first case of rustication, by the bye, since the foundation of the College—were all high in esteem in the Common Room; one, at least, was among those happy few who dubbed themselves "Committee," and not one of them was a member of the Union; in other words, not one among them was stamped with the College stamp of social respectability. "Let *the* students," we said, "drop their canting Grundyism and take some active steps, let them see to it that they hold possession of their domains at once, or the Common Room will soon cease to be." They did not take our advice, and the result we prophesied has come to pass. Their first measure next session —it is too late this term—should be to wait upon the Principal, submit to him a really responsible Committee, and request of him not only to restore the use of the room itself, but once again to sanction—what were once a coveted privilege among men of an older growth—the College Social Evenings.

In our Correspondence Column this month there is one other letter which we cannot pass without some comment. It is a very short one, requesting us to turn our attention to the question of Votes of Thanks at the College meetings. We have more than once been tempted to open our columns to the discussion of a matter on which we ourselves feel rather strongly. After some four years' experience in various College societies, we are more than ever convinced of the fact that a vote of thanks is an altogether useless and cumbersome tag to an evening's entertainment. Proposers of a resolution of this character can very seldom speak their whole thoughts. When they do—as two speakers we have in mind have done during the present term—they only make their audience feel uncomfortable. They are too often, from mere force of circumstances, hypocrites, if not actual perverters of the truth. The seconders of votes of thanks generally acquiesce in a more or less inane manner, according to the capability of the speaker, in the words of the proposer; or they relate a little anecdote, which, in some cases, has a bearing upon the subject under consideration, or they declare to the meeting, often without the semblance of a blush, that really, they have been so very interested in the paper that they shall take the first opportunity of making an intimate acquaintance with the author's works, or—they say nothing. In which case they practically assure the reader, if not in so many words, that there is absolutely no excuse for him.

It is the duty of every member to do that which in him lies for the benefit of his society, and why a reader of a paper should be specially thanked for doing his duty any more than the leader in a debate, we are at a loss to understand. If it is a surpassingly good paper, it is a moral impossibility for an ordinary speaker to express the feeling of the whole meeting; and if it is a surpassingly bad one, the cheap praise lavished on the author has in it such a hollow ring that it but serves to accentuate the badness. It is impossible that the stilted phraseology of Votes of Thanks can be altogether sincere. Their insincerity has reduced them to a mere formula. Is this formula a necessary one?

"Sumer is icumen in," a characteristic English summer. And though it may sound a hollow mockery to speak of sun-guards with the snow on the ground in May, yet some sunshine we have had, even during this summer, with its attendant discomforts, in the Library. Only those who have sat for two or three hours in the morning at the tables on the south side, and experienced the

full force of a hot sun on some forty square feet of window-glass, can sympathise with us in the tale we have to tell. Many a morning we have seen book-laden forms travelling against the sun, in a vain endeavour to find a shady nook where they may pitch their settling-place without imminent fears of sunstroke. In our last number we announced, upon very reliable authority, that the Council hoped for a further Government grant in the course of perhaps only a few weeks. We are not informed whether this expectation has been justified in the fulfilment, but when the hoped-for grant does come we would humbly suggest that these increased powers could not be put to a better use than an early provision of blinds for the Library Windows.

THE UNION.

The following Report was unavoidably omitted from our last issue :—

Friday, March 20th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the Chair.—The meeting was held in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, and MISS BUNCE read a paper on "Edward Bache," a Birmingham musician, and one therefore, as Miss Bunce remarked, who ought to be specially interesting to a Birmingham audience. The paper was, perhaps, hardly critical and analytical enough to satisfy a Union meeting, the writer contenting herself with a categorical account of Edward Bache's goings to and fro upon the earth, interspersed with a few hardly interesting letters. Whatever might have been the merits or demerits of the paper however were unfortunately lost to anyone farther back from the reader than the first two rows.

The musical programme was certainly the most interesting part of the evening, the *Trio* as admirably rendered by Miss Donaldson (violin), Miss J. Pearson (piano), and Mr. Philip Walker ('cello), being by far the best item, and fully bearing out Miss Bunce's statement that Bache "in his short life gave promise of being not only an honour to his town, but also to the musical world at large." Mr. Brewerton's fine rendering of the two songs allotted to him, "Ah! did they but know" and "Farewell" also deserves special notice. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Miss Bunce and her helpers.

The following is the programme as rendered :—

1. Mazurka	Miss T. PARSONS.
2. Song, "Her Spirit"	Miss JENNIE CHARLES.
3. Berceuse (Souvenir d'Italie)	Miss JESSIE PEARSON.
4. Madeleine (Souvenir d'Italie)	Miss FLORENCE CLARKE.
5. Song, "Spring-tide Faith"	Miss ANNIE MARTIN.
6. Song, "Ah! did they but know"	Mr. BREWERTON.
7. Trio (for violin, 'cello, and piano)	Miss DONALDSON, Miss J. PEARSON, Mr. PHILIP WALKER.
8. Song, "Chloe"	Miss M. BUNCE.
9. Song, "Serenade"	Miss JENNIE CHARLES.
10. L'Allegro	Miss T. PARSONS.
11. Violin Solo, "Romance"	Miss DONALDSON.
12. Song, "Farewell"	Mr. BREWERTON.
13. Introduction and Allegro (for the organ)	Miss F. CLARKE.

May 15th.—Mr. HAINES, B.Sc., in the Chair. Mr. J. V. PUGH gave a paper upon "George Eliot." The reader opened with an entertaining account of Miss Evans's childhood and education, introducing details as to the relation of her father to the after-creation of Caleb Garth, and then passed to the consideration of her development as a novelist under the influence of Mr. Lewes. Her remarkable entrance into the world of letters by means of "Amos Barton," and the mystery involved in its authorship were gracefully described, and Mr. Pugh was also successful in concisely epitomising the various later novels, which, though familar as household words to the meeting, were yet greeted with a kindly appreciation, being worthy indeed of the heartiest of welcomes.

Here, however, Mr. Pugh's work ended, and some of those eager opinion-hunters, who are ever hungrily on the look-out for a crumb of comment, gave a rather pitiful groan of disappointment. Poor opinion-hunters! We, while listening with a well-bred and deferential silence to the trite details of a famous life, and the bare outlines of familiar plots, saw them straining to catch the least syllable of criticism which might fall from the speaker's lips. They listened, strained, and craned their necks in vain. No criticism came. They heard the names of Adam, and Mrs. Poyser, of Maggie Tulliver, of Tito, of Savanarola, of Caleb, of Felix; they heard, again, what they did and what they said, but not a word of whether it was well said or well done, whether their complex motives were well set forth, and if well, could they have been set forth better, and if better, by whom? None of this; they were burning to hear it, and have words mayhap with Mr. Pugh, to test the feelings of others upon matters on which they felt strongly themselves, but it was denied them. Mr. Pugh would not. What wonder if they were disappointed!

In our heart of hearts, too, even we, with all our want of enthusiasm, all our calmness of spirit, must confess a little—just the least—chagrin. We would not have dared to ask Mr. Pugh to give us something entirely original, because we know that it takes a lifetime to evolve a single page of matter that is really and altogether first-hand; but we hoped for at least a collation of a few opinions, and a comment or two upon them. Surely that ought not to have been too much to expect from a gentleman reading a paper on such a very well-worn subject as "George Eliot as a Novelist"! We trust Mr. Pugh will find such a desirable end amply within his means when next he devotes his talents to the entertainment of the Union.

We have to notice with pleasure the distinct rendering of one of the lady-novelist's poems by Miss DEELEY; the humorous and pointed delivery of Miss KEEP, in a scene from "Adam Bede"; and, above all, the deeply impressive and sympathetic reading of a powerful selection from "Daniel Deronda" by Miss MARGARET JOHNSON.

Mr. P. E. MARTINEAU, apparently one of the disappointed opinion-hunters, proposed a correspondingly doleful vote of thanks, which was seconded with indignation and *éclat* by Miss S. L. PAGE.

Friday, May 29th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the Chair.—Debate: "THAT THE GROWING TENDENCY OF THE PRESS TOWARDS PERSONALITY IS TO BE STRONGLY DEPRECATED." Miss C. M. BOURLAY opened in the affirmative. By the aid of an excellent lexicographical work, which Mr. Burnaud's

"Sphinxian Aunt" would always call "Dixon's Johnsonary," Miss Bourlay defined *Personality* as "personal remarks and reflections," and then proceeded to cite numerous instances of "abuse" of this kind—*i.e.*, personal remarks anent public men in the press. Her instances were not particularly happy from the point of view of the affirmative, being extremely harmless and somewhat entertaining. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Lord Beaconsfield were called up as victims to what was, in the words of Miss Bourlay, either "distinctly abusive" or "highly impertinent." The abolition of duelling had much to do with the growth of "society" papers. Anything was fish that came to their net, provided only they escaped the grip of the law. Once again she quoted from papers, which, however, were not named, and her quotations were, to our mind, as harmless and amusing as before. Dress and personal eccentricities were the chief subjects of their reflections. But others, besides, so-called "society" papers opened their columns for the dissemination of this pernicious nonsense, and she concluded by a sketch of the evils of interviewing, and of detailed reports of personal incidents in trials.

Mr. A. A. BROCKINGTON opened on the Negative. He took an altogether broader view of the term "personality," but a view which, we think, was fully justified by Miss Bourlay's definition. *The Review* and *The Tatler*, to commence at the beginning, were instances of the advantage of personal remarks over impersonal reflections. The idea of Defoe had permeated the whole of the press up to the present day, until now sixty-two columns out of sixty-four "in the largest circulation in the world" were wholly personal. To deprecate the personal element in the press meant deprecating the whole system of modern journalism. The rise of the personal press was parallel with the rise of civilization. Personal reports, he had little difficulty in showing, were an effective system of public police; and, moreover, it was quite a laudable curiosity which fostered the insertion of press notices of royal excursions, garden parties, "at homes," private concerts, drawing rooms, musical and dramatic critiques, and the rest. As to personal attacks, he contended that there could not be any effective stand against evils without a certain amount of violence; editorial recriminations and abuse were not the rule in England; he could recall no case here of interference with justice; and, finally, outspoken criticism, well timed and well directed, was a perfectly legitimate weapon. The source of the ridiculous, said Fielding, was affectation, and affectation could not exist apart from persons. So with the pathetic. The deprecation of personality meant, therefore, the banishing of the truly comic and the truly pathetic from our journalistic literature.

Miss BARROWS, in seconding the Affirmative, confined herself largely to a tirade against sarcasm, illustrating her remarks by quotations from the New Testament and elsewhere. Her speech was singularly bare of argument, and sounded very like a page from somebody's "Proverbial Philosophy." She made a statement one moment, and the next, on her own authority, raised it to the dignity of an axiom.

There was much good sound common sense in Mr. J. J. SUDBOROUGH'S refreshing little speech in seconding the Negative. With all respect to Miss Bourlay, he really thought she had touched the question very little, but, "like a bull with a red rag," had dealt rather with "personalities"

than with the broader question of "personality." Personality, he contended, was a peculiar function, without which a public press could not exist, and, moreover, he declined altogether to deprecate "the growing tendency of the Press towards Personality," if for no other reason but that such a tendency was *not growing*.

Professor HILLHOUSE cited several great literary models to disprove the statement of Mr. A. A. Brockington as to personality being a necessary weapon of reform. Mr. Brockington had also remarked upon the absence of editorial recrimination in the English press, and Professor Hillhouse quoted from an Andover paper a passage anent the *London Star*, vastly entertaining from its mere virulence.

Mr. W. D'ESTE EMERY supported Mr. Sudborough in his statement as to personality in the press being, if anything, on the decrease, and quoted instances of personal reflections in the eighteenth century, when journalists did not hesitate to call a spade a spade. A personal press was invaluable to succeeding generations. What would we not give for an interview with William Shakespeare, or for the smallest tittle-tattle about the great minds of the past in a journal of the day, if such existed?

Miss BOURLAY having replied, the motion was put to the house; it was lost, a large majority declaring in favour of a Personal Press.

Friday, June 13th.—Mr. A. W. HAINES, B.Sc., in the Chair.—There were many excellent points in Mr. PARROTT'S review of "THE MYSTIC SCIENCE OF BYGONE AGES." Alchemy, Witchcraft, and Astrology formed the three chief headings of his essay, and he may be complimented on what was at once a concise, clear, and comprehensive account of the gradual development of modern scientific research out of the trammels of quackery and speculation. That it did not prove of absorbing interest, and attracted but a small assembly, was the fault not of the writer, but of his subject. Mr. Parrott had barren ground to work, barren at least of ordinary interest, though full of matter of instruction. He did not once waver in his task, but carried his audience with him, and forced himself upon their attention, by mere force of will. If it was a dry tale, it was at any rate a tale which proved vigorous and convincing in the telling. Mr. Parrott's paper gave proof of no little research into subjects that were both obscure and difficult. This research he had accomplished with remarkable care, and perhaps even more discrimination, for he had nothing to say that was beside the mark, but everything was well to the point.

So much for Mr. Parrott, and now for his audience. What is the Union coming to? Less than three years ago, if we mistake not, the average attendance at our meetings reached the number of 150. At Mr. Parrott's paper there were not more than 60 present, and the Musical Evenings alone in these days of decadence draw anything like satisfactory audiences. It is not that the fare provided has decreased in quality. The papers appear to us to be as good as those which, four years ago, were applauded by audiences thrice as large, and, in addition, familiarity had not then bred contempt in our minds, but we were dazzled with the glamour, which surrounds the Unknown; while the majority of speeches now delivered are in reality—in our humble judgment at least—a great improvement, both in vigour and enthusiasm on the utterances of many of the giants of four year ago.

But this is not all. Out of the sixty persons who entered the room, twenty left during the course of fifty minutes. We have before remarked upon this phenomenon in these pages. Not only is it a great inconvenience to the body of the meeting to have members continually rising and leaving the room with mighty clatter at the most inopportune moments, but it is an insult to the reader to see a third of his audience, within an hour from his entrance, strolling with languid air towards either of the three exits, as though quite overcome with the Demon of Dulness. If a member is prepared to stay out no more than fifty minutes of a meeting, surely his or her—for the majority of the offenders are ladies—presence is little to be desired.

A vote of thanks, suitably proposed by Mr. J. W. AUSTIN, was ably seconded by Mr. A. C. ROSE.

THE POESY CLUB.

Our faith in the power of definition was rudely shaken at the last Poesy Club meeting, on Tuesday, May 26th. Mr. J. V. PUGH was down for a paper on "The Dramatic Works of George Eliot." The Poesy Club Committee are content to guide themselves by no common rule; let a work be of a more or less dramatic nature, and it is evidently, in their opinion, to be dubbed a *dramatic work*. But it was surely not an altogether wise extension of the term, which made it possible to include George Eliot's "Armgart" and the "Spanish Gipsy" in the list of English plays. The popular novelist appeared for one night only in a new part, that of the "Great Unacted." It was not Mr. Pugh's fault. The Poesy Club Committee, in their superior wisdom, had decreed that Miss Evans was something more than a mere novelist, and Mr. Pugh was forced to abide by that decree. He began with an apology, he ended with an apology, the whole tone of his paper was one of apology—an apology which was certainly needed if we are to consider George Eliot's two blank verse essays as British dramas. She herself did not venture to call them so, but was content with plain "poem." These writings are not plays. "Armgart" certainly is divided into scenes, and told for the greater part in dialogue, but dialogue and scenes do not make a play; while in Spanish Gipsy" there is absolutely no attempt at all to present the tale in "drama" form. This latter poem is divided into four books, in which the tediousness of continuous relation is sometimes broken by lapsing into dialogue, as in the "Pilgrim's Progress," or Longfellow's "Golden Legend;" and rash indeed would be the critic who essayed to consider either Bunyan's prose epic or the "Golden Legend" as an English play. "Armgart" is the story of a *prima donna* who loses her voice and is forced ever afterwards to live a poor music-teacher, "the millionth woman in superfluous herds"—a poem of life, very prolix, in parts touching; a well-worn tale, told, and often much better, in prose. There is too much of an every-day flavour about it to be altogether fitting the dignity of blank verse. Questions as to the trilling and sustaining of a high note are apt to provoke more or less of laughter when treated in heroic measures. Neither, because a character is a music-teacher is it necessary that he should speak a ceaseless musical jargon and describe women's speech as making his "sober bass tones" into "rambling trebles," and "showering down in endless demi-semi-quavers"—meaning, in plain English, that the lady had misunderstood his meaning.

How did Mr. Pugh approach his difficult task? Let us say at once that he did not approach it at all, but merely gazed at it mildly contemplative from afar. He shirked his work sadly; he thought, perhaps, that the two writings in question might be considered as dramas, but they were unactable; he gave bare outlines of their plots, he introduced his readers to the audience in a few fitting words, and—"the rest was silence." He had not even a word to say for George Eliot's blank verse, and this was culpable neglect; for so many of our best prose authors have written execrable verse that it was a novelty—quite worthy a moment's consideration from Mr. Pugh—to find a novelist in whom the poetic instinct found expression almost as well in rhythmic cadence as in poetical prose.

The readings, especially that from "The Spanish Gipsy," which alone succeeded in riveting the attention of the audience, were, on the whole, admirably given. Miss MARGARET JOHNSON is to be especially complimented on the effectiveness of her *Fedalma*, a part undertaken by her at a few hours' notice. The casts were as follow:—

ARMGART.

Armgart	Miss M. E. JOHNSON.
Walpurga	Miss PUGH.
Leo	Mr. LOCKHART LOWE.
Dr. Grahn	Mr. C. V. PUGH.

THE SPANISH GIPSY.

Fedalma	Miss M. E. JOHNSON.
Silva	Mr. LOCKHART LOWE.
Zarca	Mr. C. V. PUGH.

Mr. MINERS, M.A., in proposing a vote of thanks, was, as usual, gently critical; and Mr. POPE, in seconding, assured the audience that he should take the earliest opportunity of reading these great plays.

THE KARL DAMMANN MEMORIAL.

On *May 8th*, a meeting, numbering about thirty members and friends of the German Society, was held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, for the purpose of presenting a portrait of the late Dr. Dammann, and some German books—the KARL DAMMANN MEMORIAL—to the College. Dr. Fiedler presided, and Principal Heath attended on behalf of the Council. Letters of apology were read from Alderman Johnson, Dr. Gibbs Blake, and others.

Dr. FIEDLER, in calling upon Miss Caddick to give a sketch of the Life of Dr. Dammann, said that at the opening meeting of the German Society this session the first words were of his predecessor, and this, the last meeting of the session, was to be entirely dedicated to his memory. Though Dr. Dammann had raised the best monument of himself in the hearts of his friends and pupils, yet love and gratitude wished to give some outward sign, and though the best memorial consisted in carrying out the work begun by him, yet, as one generation of students succeeded another, there was danger that the name of the first worker in the field might be forgotten. After some deliberation, therefore, it had been decided to place a portrait of Dr. Dammann in the class-room where he worked, and steadily to continue the formation of the German Library, the nucleus of which had been founded by Dr. Dammann himself.

Miss CADDICK, as a personal friend and a student of the late Professor, gave a short sketch of Karl Dammann's life. Born at Hanover in 1826, after taking honours in the Universities of Göttingen and Jena, he was, in 1851, chosen a member of the staffs of Huddersfield College and Wakefield Grammar School. Here he formed lifelong friendships, and it was at the house of one of these friends he died. In February, 1859, he was appointed German Master at King Edward's School in this town, and soon after, he began to teach in the Institute. In 1881 he was appointed Professor of German Language and Literature at Mason College. After the passing of the Education Act of 1866, he gave much assistance to the founders of the Board School by his information as to the educational system of Germany. Miss Caddick announced the receipt of many sympathetic letters from old friends and pupils.

Dr. FIEDLER then made the presentation.

Principal HEATH, in accepting the Memorial, expressed his regret that no members of the Council were present. Dr. Dammann, he said, had always been a welcome presence at the Academic Board. There was no examination, he noticed, attached to the Memorial, as it was intended to recall pleasant memories of bygone days, and memories of exams. were not always pleasant. For himself and his colleagues the Memorial was a great happiness, showing, as it did, that their efforts in teaching—the duty and pleasure of their lives—were crowned with affection and respect; and it was encouraging for Dr. Fiedler, as it showed him what would be done for him after he had gained the affections of his pupils.

Dr. FIEDLER proposed a vote of thanks, which Miss SUCKLING seconded, to Dr. Heath, for graciously accepting, on behalf of the Council, and finding room for the Memorial. Miss Suckling suggested that it was very cruel and unparental of the Council to bring their children to the edge of the stream and then prevent them from drinking, through ill provision of books for the German Department. Dr. HEATH, replying, said that the Council should consider Miss Suckling's suggestion, but they had the old problem of much to do and little to do it with. He hoped, however, that next year the German Department would have a further grant.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Fiedler for presiding was moved by Mr. CLAPHAM, and seconded by Miss B. MACCARTHY. In acknowledging it, the Professor proposed a vote of thanks to Misses Harrold, Caddick, and W. Marris for their services in connection with the Memorial. This was seconded by Dr. Heath.

The room was tastefully decorated with plants, and the portrait draped in green. The arrangements were in the hands of Miss Caddick.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

At the last meeting Professor SMITH occupied the chair, and there were seventeen members present.—Mr. H. M. Waynforth was elected a member. — The PRESIDENT mentioned the question of the Summer Excursion, and asked for some expression of opinion on the matter, and referred to the proposals that had been made—viz., that the excursion should be to (*a*) the Yorkshire district, (*b*) South Wales, or (*c*) London. This led to a lively discussion. Mr. WAYNFORTH advocated London, and gave a most imposing account of the places that could be visited and the

things that were there worth seeing. The PRESIDENT gave an account of what was to be seen in and about Cardiff, and Mr. MARKS spoke up in favour of Sheffield and parts adjacent. Some members wanted the selection to be made there and then; others, including the President, thought the selection should be left until the next meeting, and one member did not much care which district was chosen so long as no twenty-mile walks were included in the programme. Ultimately it was agreed to leave this matter to be settled at the next meeting, but it was decided that whichever district was selected, the excursion should start on the 6th July.—Mr. PEIRCE was then called upon to read his paper on "Westinghouse and Vacuum Brakes," in which he gave a very interesting account of the various forms of automatic and continuous brakes now in use, and the various degrees of perfection attained by them. The paper was illustrated by many diagrams and drawings, and gave those who heard it a very good idea of one of the most important details of modern railway engineering, and the one about which but little is yet known to those who have not specially turned their attention to it. A discussion followed, in which Professor SMITH, and Messrs. CLAPHAM, MARKS, and CRAIG took part; and a vote of thanks to the author terminated the proceedings.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Society was held on May 13th, Dr. POYNTING in the Chair.—Mr. HARRISON performed an exceedingly pretty experiment on the susceptibility of Nickel, which appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine*, February 19. A small tongue of Nickel, soldered to a disc of copper, was suspended by silk threads near a powerful magnet, so that when the Nickel was attracted, the suspending threads made a small angle with the vertical. The bar and disc were then slightly warmed, with the result that, losing its susceptibility, the Nickel swung away from the pole; but, its temperature being lowered by rushing through the air its susceptibility returned, and on reaching the magnet once more it was held for an instant, and again fell away. The oscillations were continued so long as heat was applied.—The PRESIDENT then demonstrated a simple method of obtaining diffraction Coronas, with a tube of blackened paper, some water, and a candle. An experiment thus made with the humble objects of every-day life, and with so beautiful a result, must surely inspire the minds even of Arts Students with feelings of reverence for their scientific brethren.—Mr. EDWARDS was then called upon to read his paper on "Recalescence." Dealing not only with recalescence proper—the name given to the apparent reglows which occur in iron and steel wires when cooling from a white heat—but with several allied phenomena such as the electric current generated in an iron wire by a moving source of heat. The paper was an able and interesting digest of all facts bearing on the subject which have been discovered up to the present day, together with various theories which have attempted to explain them. With regard to the latter, all are of course simply tentative, and a satisfactory explanation will probably not be arrived at until the long-looked-for advent of a second Newton.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. INGRAM, seconded by Mr. SKIRROW.

June 10th.—Dr. POYNTING in the chair.—Mr. BUCKLEY gave a detailed account of several forms of Accumulators, and of the methods in which they are "formed," exhibiting one of his own construction.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. EDWARDS endeavoured to turn the minds of the Physical Society to things theoretical, but alas! with questionable success, owing doubtless to the practical drift of the evening's discourse.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *University College of Wales Magazine*, the *Marlburian*, and the *King Edward's School Chronicle*. The last-named gives some interesting reminiscences of the Bishop of Durham in his schooldays, while the *Marlburian* dilates with pardonable pride on a most successful Symphony Concert performed, with some assistance from professionals, by the school orchestra. The *Aberystwyth Magazine* has some notes on a paper read before the Teachers' Guild, a college society, which might with much advantage be imitated here, where so many students are preparing to become teachers, expecting, like true Englishmen, to teach, and to teach well, by the mere light of nature.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CRITICISM ON "OUR CONTEMPORARIES."

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine.*

Madam,—There is no one more averse than myself to criticising the critic, when his statements have the slightest background of truth. I have read your critiques for the last six or seven months with interest, and hailed with something like joy the new era, which has made College criticism more than bald eulogy. But when it seems to have been the sole object of the critic to caper and show his own paces, to make his criticism but the medium of producing comic effect, and his subject a lay figure to drape with the flimsy product of his own pretty wit, then I think he altogether mistakes his function, and becomes no longer a critic, but a jester. And such was evidently the object of your last month's reviewer of reviews, the writer of "Our Contemporaries."

This ungenerous spirit of cavilling is particularly remarkable, and doubly reprehensible when exhibited, not towards our own students, who know us well, and perhaps recognise the worth of our words, but towards strangers, and it will not be surprising if many of our readers have seen in this criticism a reflection on our own magazine, and more particularly on the critic himself.

An article in the *Institute Magazine* he cites as "an example of what should be avoided by students anxious to improve their English composition." Our critic, it may here be remarked, is not immaculate himself. With the chance of being considered a carper, I cannot refrain from noticing that in a writer of his high literary pretensions, the phrase "just the sort of thing we want" is, to say the least, an unseemly colloquialism, and "of these is well shown who" is ungrammatical. Anent the same article he exclaims "What is an aisle of trees, and wherein does it differ from a lane? What are soft tintinabulations, and wherein do they differ from hard ones?" This is all pure buffoonery, a feeble echo of those antics which even the strength of a Johnson could not save from disfiguring the greatest of English critics. The five-lined waggery, directed against *Laurel Leaves*, arises out of what the critic—if he had not purposely rendered himself purblind for the greater effect of his own abundant humour—would have recognised to be nothing more than a printer's error. "The Death of the Theban Brothers" in *King Edward's School Chronicle* he says "is blank verse; in fact its blankness is remarkable." This is is a stab, quite as ungenerous as that which in early days the *Chronicle* itself aimed at our Constance Naden, and which raised such a storm in our midst. Moreover it is absolutely puerile; the jest would occur to anyone who should be willing to debase the critical art so far as to utter it. The objection to "grovels then on each in turn" is quite groundless,

The expression, though not equal to the original, is to be justified by classical usage. Moreover it requires no "poetic licence" to excuse the phrase "through her severed throat she drove." This is an ordinary prolepsis, of a kind which only a slightly read critic would have been perfectly familiar. It is this same writer, whom he describes as so frightened by his own literary contortions as to be compelled to quote in justification Sir Philip Sidney and Hamlet. Surely an author does not confess himself frightened by his own contortions, by the act of quoting great literary parallels, or the whole of English Literature is one grand contortion. The writer of "Advice to a Young Reviewer" once hacked to pieces Milton's "L'Allegro" by the same devices which this merry wit uses to make rediculous the author of the poem, "Nèige." "We hesitate," he says, "to accept 'fin' and 'faim' as a true rhyme." There is absolutely no need for hesitation at all; "fin" rhymes with "faim" as perfectly as "sharp" with "carp."

The critique on our *Magazine* is devoted to a sneer against the lines—

"No guilt is on that noble brow
Half-hid by hanging hair."

"'Hanging hair' is so suggestive," he remarks. "Hanging hair" is suggestive—of truth, and is no weaker than "curling," or "golden," which he obligingly suggests as alternatives. The prologue to "Looking Backward," in the *University College of Wales Magazine*, he characterises as on "original vacuity." The passage quoted struck me as being exceptionally fine, the intent good, and the conception excellent. Moreover, on reading the essay, I find that his statement as to the originality of the prologue consisting in its complete absence of bearing on the remaining part of the article is utterly false.

Your critic, madam, is evidently a fond admirer of Macaulay's "Montgomery." But he would do well to remember that the writer of this remarkable essay was a very far remove indeed from the author of "Satan," and though he might consider the writers in "Our Contemporaries" Montgomerys, it was, at least, somewhat presumptuous in him to pose as a Macaulay.

N.

[What have we here? What smooth-tongued sarcasm, beginning with well-sounding compliment, and ending wiih a direct slap in the face? My dear sir, or madam, whoever our correspondent may be—for, having written anonymously, we know you not, and insert your epistle, be it remembered, under protest, against all precedent—my dear sir, or madam, is it not we, and not "our contemporaries," who are the unfortunate Montgomerys, and you yourself who are sitting so complacently for a portrait of Lord Macaulay?—Ed. *M.C.M.*]

THE COMMON ROOM.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine*.

Madam,

Can you inform me what steps it will be necessary to take, in order that the Men's Common Room may be once again opened for public use?

Yours, &c., OF THE OLD STOCK.

VOTES OF THANKS.

To the Editor of the *Mason College Magazine*.

Dear Madam,

I have been struck once or twice, particularly during the last month,—with the emptiness of Votes of Thanks to the readers of papers at the various College Societies. Could you through the medium of your Magazine turn your attention either to the reforming of these resolutions, or, if you think as I do, to the abolition of them altogether?

Sincerely yours, A UNIONITE.

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